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JULY 1996

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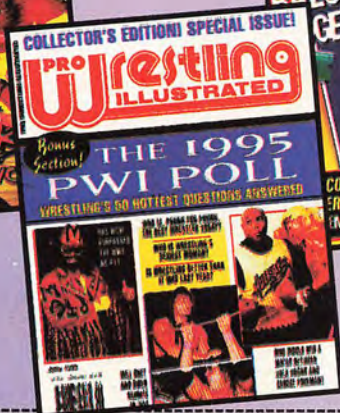
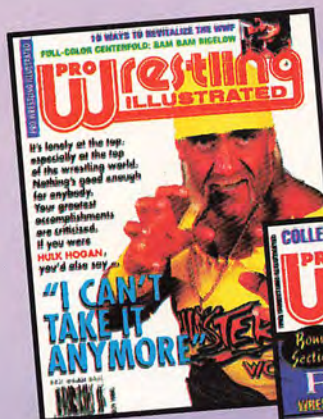
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OFF PRO WRESTLING

JULY 1996

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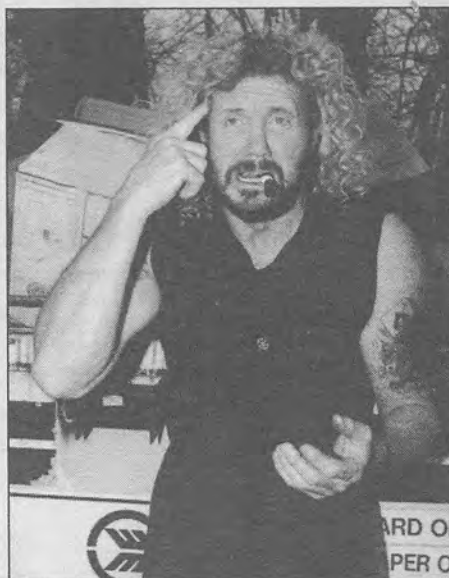


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Sincerely Yours

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COMPUTER GLITCH

The 1996 INSIDE WRESTLING Computer Tournament (April 1996) was interesting, but I don't think Shawn Michaels could defeat Diesel, The Undertaker, The Giant, and Hulk Hogan. To quote Gorilla Monsoon, "It's highly unlikely!"

In my opinion, Shawn wouldn't make it past any round. The Diesel-Shawn match would be competitive, like their battle at WrestleMania XI was, but I think Diesel's "jackknife" would prevail over Shawn's superkick. The Undertaker would "tombstone" Michaels to hell and back again. The Giant would choke-slam "The Heartbreak Kid" into oblivion in seconds. Most of all, I think Shawn would be overwhelmed by the immortal Hulk Hogan. I know the battle between the WWF's old and new generations would see the old decimate the new in no uncertain terms. All Shawn's little fans in the audience would go home in tears!

Don't get blinded by the WWF hype. "The Heartbreak Kid" couldn't beat Hogan in his wildest dreams.

MIKE FACCIANI
Johnstown, PA

IMPEACH BOCKWINKEL

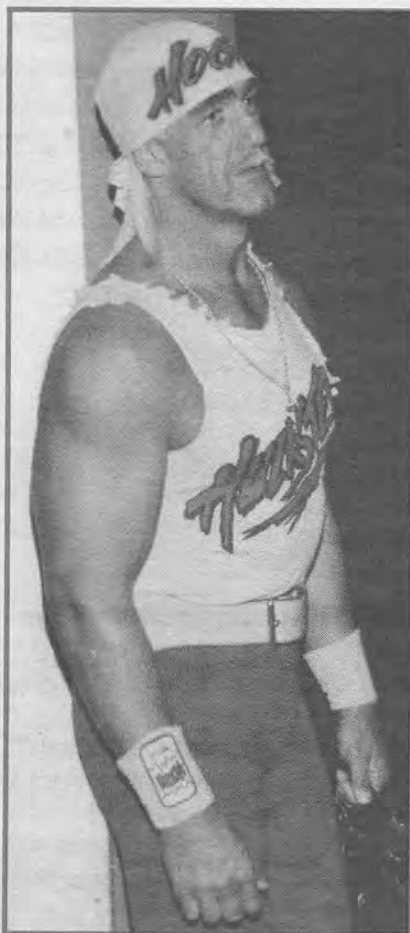
WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel needs to be replaced because he is never around when he is needed and is biased against

Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage.

For instance, where was Commissioner Bockwinkel when the high heel of Elizabeth and a pair of brass knuckles caused more problems for Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage than Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and Kevin Sullivan could have done together? No reprimands were handed out in both instances, yet Bockwinkel once suspended Hogan for hitting a referee. What happened to Arn after he nailed Savage with brass knuckles at Starrcade? Nothing! What about the incident in which Hogan was hit in the eye with the heel of Elizabeth's shoe? Nothing. How hypocritical! This is not right. Bockwinkel is allowing Flair, Anderson, and Sullivan to run rampant over WCW.



Shawn Michaels has dominated much of his competition in the WWF, but could he beat Hulk Hogan, as we suggested in the 1996 Computer Tournament? Reader Mike Facciani says no.



WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel was accused of showing favoritism toward Hulk Hogan, but reader Darrell Kropog Jr. doesn't think he has done enough to punish those who have tried to destroy Hogan.

WCW should replace Bockwinkel with someone more impartial before it's too late!

DARRELL KROPOG JR.
Hammond, LA

GENERATION QUESTION

The WWF is the home of the "New Generation," huh? Right, Vince McMahon. Why don't you and the WWF tell us another one. A thorough examination of the federation's roster puts the "New Generation" myth to shame. Veterans like Bret Hart, Davey Boy Smith, and The Undertaker make up some of the WWF's top talent base. In fact, even a megastar like Shawn Michaels is no longer a spring chicken.

A few of the entrants in the 1996 Royal Rumble were Bob Backlund, Jerry Lawler, Jake Roberts, and Dory Funk Jr. Are we to believe that these grizzled veterans are part of this "New Generation," too?

The next time someone bashes the WCW's "Big Boys," he should first remember that the WWF is no nursery school, either!

STAN LENKIEWICZ
Paramus, NJ

ELIMINATION FIXATION

After reading "Wrestling's Next Great Tag Team? The Violent

World Of The Eliminators" (May 1996), I firmly believe that The Eliminators will be the next team to dominate the tag team division. Perry Saturn and John Kronus have shown the killer instinct and great skills needed to take over the tag team scene the way The Road Warriors did in the 1980s. This is probably the best all-around team that has stormed into ECW—and wrestling—in a long time. I'd love to see them enter the WWF or WCW and pummel every so-called great tag team in the federation.

Personally, I'd love to see them against The Road Warriors. Saturn and Kronus would show the world why Animal should have never entered the ring again.

GENE STREMB
St. Louis, MO

THE CLOCK IS TICKING

Is it just me or does it seem like wrestling is stuck in a 1980s time warp? I just heard on the "PW/Hotline" that The Ultimate Warrior is coming back to the WWF. The almighty but aged Road Warriors are back in WCW. I can't understand why are we being tortured like this! Isn't it bad enough that so many other former 1980s stars are still trying milk another minute

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Bret Hart vs. Bob Backlund—is this a match featuring the best of the WWF's "New Generation"? Reader Stan Lenkiewicz feels the WWF's "New Generation" promotional campaign is misleading.

Inside Wrestling

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Everybody's excited about the next pay-per-view, right? With nearly two per month, you barely have time to digest the last one when you have to start gearing up for the next. Aside from the fact that you have to be in the 33 percent tax bracket to afford them all, it is a very exciting time to be a wrestling fan, right?

Not for everyone. And, in truth, not for most people.

Fact is, most people don't even have the capability of receiving pay-per-views in their homes. The total pay-per-view universe, the potential PPV audience, reached its height with the Mike Tyson-Frank Bruno fight: 24 million homes. The total number of TV households in the U.S. is 95.9 million. That means that pay-per-view is available in only one-fourth of the homes in this country. What about the rest of you?

Do you resent the fact that the sport revolves around PPV, that both the WWF and WCW spend all their television time building up to something that you'll never see? Do you try to get to an area where PPV is available? Do you order videotapes of PPVs, so that you won't miss out on the action? Do you call the "PWI Hotline" to get the results immediately after the events?

I'd like to hear from you. More importantly, the WWF and WCW, which have virtually forgotten there are people in this world who don't have the capability of receiving their best product, *need* to hear from you. Send your comments to me at: "Reporter's Notebook," Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. I'll print some of your comments in a future "Notebook."

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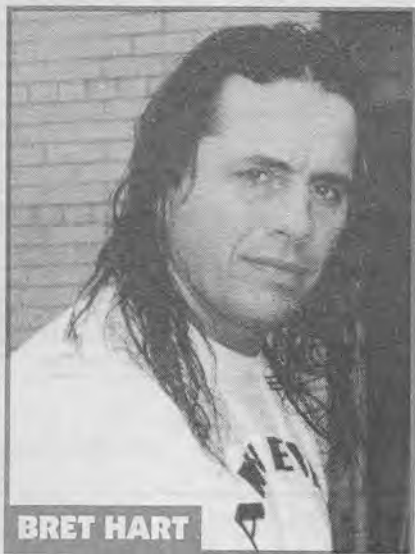
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NAMES MA

DID YOU SEE the look of disgust etched on **Bret Hart's** face when WWF President **Gorilla Monsoon** ordered him to return to the ring for a sudden-death overtime period at **WrestleMania XII**? If looks could kill ... well, Bret must have forgotten he and **Shawn Michaels** had agreed there would be a definite winner, and Monsoon was just doing his job. Also, did you notice the cool reception Bret got when he walked down the aisle at the beginning of the match?

I guess all those sarcastic barbs he was shooting toward Shawn about that incident in Syracuse and about how great he is ("The best there is, the best there was, and the best there ever will be") just turned



BRET HART

some fans off. I thought it was real nice of Shawn to put his mentor, **Jose Lothario**, in the spotlight after he won the WWF title. Lothario was a great wrestler who held dozens of titles throughout his career. In a reflective moment a few hours later, Shawn made sure to tell me that even though he's not friendly with

him now, he credits his former tag team partner, **Marty Jannetty**, for teaching him much of what made him the champion he is today.

It may not mean as much to you as it does to **Yokozuna**, but seeing his former mentor **Mr. Fuji** in his corner at **WrestleMania** (**Yoko**, **Ahmed Johnson**, and **Jake Roberts** lost to **Big Van Vader**, **Owen Hart**, and **Davey Boy Smith** in a six-man match) really boosted the big man's confidence. And it was great to see



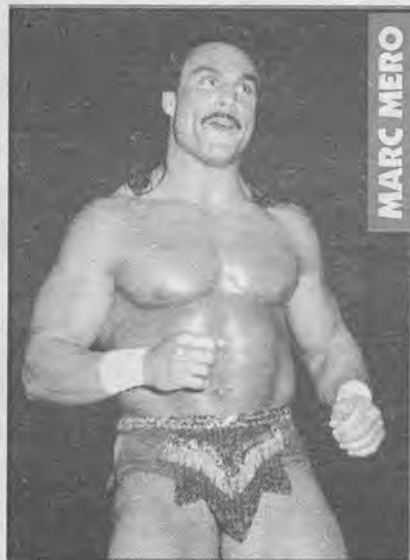
MR. FUJI

Fuji getting *cheered* for once! "Even though we lost the match because of interference and I didn't get five minutes in the ring with **Jim Cornette**," Yoko noted, "it doesn't mean I won't catch up with him soon. He's a marked man!"

It's time to drag all that old **Ultimate Warrior** merchandise out of the WWF warehouse and start putting it on the sales tables again! Did you see what a spectacular return he made? (Just ask **Hunter Hearst Helmsley**, because he had the best—or worst!—view of War-

rior's comeback!) I predict that public pressure will force Monsoon to sign a **Warrior vs. Shawn World** title match for an upcoming pay-per-view.

Yes, the WWF's "**Wildman**" **Marc Mero** is indeed the former **Johnny B. Badd**. "I've wanted to use my real name since I began my wrestling career," he told me. "When Johnny B. was created, it caught on, so I went with the flow. Johnny was a baaaaaad man, but now I'm just Marc Mero, and all you WWF rule-breakers, especially **Hunter Hearst Helmsley**, watch out!"



MARC MERO

Got calls from executives at both **Victoria's Secret** and **Frederick's of Hollywood**, two companies known for making sexy lingerie, and both assured me that their companies did *not* sell **Goldust** that tacky women's underwear **Roddy Piper** revealed by pulling off Goldust's bodysuit at **WrestleMania XII** ... I would have hated to be **Dusty Rhodes** watching that match and seeing my son being stripped down to his underwear, looking more and more like a daughter.

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter



Goldust's director, **Marlena**, was so nervous before the Piper-Goldust backlot brawl that she smoked 12 cigars, which is nine more than she smokes before most of Goldust's matches ... Hey, Roddy, you're still as tough as you were at the beginning of your career! ... Piper's tenure as WWF president may be over, but that doesn't mean you won't be seeing him anymore. "I may stick around until I get Goldust to act like a real man," he said. If that's the case, we might *never* see Piper leave!

Two tough men. I'm talking about **The Undertaker** and **Diesel**. Message to Diesel: I think you gave The Undertaker the worst beating he has *ever* gotten! After you "jackknifed" him, you stood by and gloated. Big mistake! Then you "jackknifed" him again and gloated again! Why didn't you go for the pin, big guy? No one gets up from Undertaker's "tombstone" piledriver, Diesel, not even you—as you painfully found out. "Big Daddy Cool" is headed to WCW soon, for guaranteed big bucks.

Good luck, Diesel, whatever your name will be!

Sunny, Sunny, Sunny. You won two Slammy awards (Best Buns, Manager of the Year), and now you're managing the WWF World tag team champions, **Skip** and **Zip**, mostly *because* of those best buns. In case you missed it, Sunny flashed her buns at **Phineas Godwinn** just as he was about to finish off Skip at WrestleMania. But while he was checking out Sunny, Skip rolled him up and pinned him. **Henry Godwinn** was mad at his partner, but only for a moment, saying he "probably would have done the same thing."



A great line at the Slammys came from **Shawn Michaels** while was accepting the award for being the Best Mat Mechanic. He was about to dedicate the award to **Jose Lothario** when he said, "This goes to the person who had me down on the mat more times than anyone else." At that point, he looked at Sunny and said, "Sit down, Sunny!" It embarrassed her so much that she later demanded that TV producers edit that line out of the Slammys

videotape they're putting together. Sorry, Sunny, but we talked to the production department: It's not gonna happen!

Nacho Man and **The Huckster**—I hope they're not dead forever. Perhaps **Billionaire Ted** has the



funds to bring 'em back to life ... Did you notice **Bret Hart's** young son **Blaine** was mouthing the words to the "Boy Toy" music while Shawn was celebrating his victory over Blaine's dad? ... **Vince McMahon** noted that WrestleMania XII drew 18,852 fans to Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim.

Jerry Lawler's commentary on most of the matches and about the Hart family was very cutting, very sarcastic, and very funny. Love him or hate him, you have to agree he's a terrific wit (some would call him a terrific *twit*) ... Too bad the **Steve Austin-Savio Vega** match was interrupted on the pay-per-view telecast so often by the **Goldust-Roddy Piper** car chase ... Did you notice that for the first time in WrestleMania history, there were no celebrities brought in? This time, the stars of the event were the *wrestlers*. It was about time.

That's all for now. I'll see you at the matches! □

ON A DARK, unlit stretch of Alligator Alley, Harry Jacobs peered into his rearview mirror and talked about the virtues of occasionally looking back.

"Sometimes, there's nothing there," Jacobs, 83, said as he steered his 1977 Nova along one of the straightest, most boring stretches of road you'll find anywhere. "And sometimes it all comes rushing back."

We were traveling east, from Naples to Miami, on a warm, pleasant late-February evening, on our way from Jacobs' home in Port Charlotte, Florida, to Coconut Creek, where there would be wrestling the following night at the Tri-County Fair. But there had been no major wrestling shows the previous night in Florida, or the night before that, or the night before that, and there weren't any followup cards planned for the days after Coconut Creek. That's what our trip was all about.

"Things change," Harry Jacobs said, "and not always for the best. You know, there was a time when you'd fly into Miami or Fort Lauderdale, you'd come over the Atlantic, then you'd see millions of lights, then there'd be total dark again, as if you were suddenly flying over another ocean. There was nothing here. Now they're building out so far, I don't know where they're gonna put all the alligators."

"And take this road. Used to be one lane, each way, and if you broke down, you were out of luck. You stayed in your car and waited for a state trooper to come along, which could have been hours. Now it's two lanes, paved, in each direction, and they got these phones every mile or so. These days there's no such thing as wilderness. Everything's civilization."

Harry Jacobs has been a wrestling fan all his life—or at least as far back as he can remember—and he has lived in Florida all his life. At one time, that was a very good thing. Florida was a hotbed of the independent scene, and the NWA had its strongest divisions in the Sunshine State and Missouri. Now Harry

ON THE ROAD

With Dave Lenker

Jacobs, and probably many people like him, pine for the good old days.

"I remember that night in 1969, when Dory Jr. beat Gene Kiniski for the belt in Tampa. Ol' Kiniski had held the belt for three years, or right around there, but you could see that night that he was ready to be had," Jacobs recalled. "And I remember Dory's feud with Jack Brisco. Great stuff. A real feud. That's when Florida really became the hotbed. We'd have title matches all the time, always the NWA. We didn't know from the WWF."

"Man, there were some great names, but you know who was the greatest name of all? Eddie Graham. I remember when he was Florida wrestling. He was the person everyone knew. If I had to, I'd wait in line for hours just to see him wrestle."

Jacobs is one of the few people who can remember the night Lester Welch beat Sputnik Monroe for the Florida State title in Tampa. He remembers wrestling at Sportatoriums all over the state, especially the most famous one in Hollywood, the one they knocked down a few years ago.

"I drove across the state just to watch them knock down the old building, then when they brought out the wrecking ball, I couldn't watch," he said with mist forming in his eyes. "I went down to a coffee shop a few blocks away and listened to them knocking down the old



Wrestling fans who lived in Florida a few decades ago knew how popular Eddie Graham (shown against Johnny Valentine) was in that state. Sadly, Florida isn't the wrestling hotbed it once was.

barn. I can still hear it."

The Southern title was the pride of Florida wrestling up until the mid-1980s, when Lex Luger, a pro for not even three weeks, won the belt from Wahoo McDaniel and went big time shortly afterward. From that point on, Florida wrestling has been on a steady downhill spiral.

Sure, there's still plenty of wrestling in Florida. WCW regularly holds pay-per-view events in St. Petersburg, Miami has twice been the site of *Monday Nitro* telecasts, Orlando has become one of WCW's

(Continued on page 72)

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Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

BE CAREFUL OF what you wish for. You might get it. That's an old saying with a lot of meaning in wrestling these days, especially now that The Road Warriors and the Steiners have *both* returned to WCW.

Nobody has ever asked, "Where's the beef?" in reference to these two teams. It's obvious that the beef is all over their muscular bodies. The question now is, "Where's the heat?" Road Warriors vs. Steiners has all the heat of Jimmy Connors vs. John McEnroe ... in the early-1990s. Sure, it's nice, and both sides still dislike each other, but what does it mean?

When all of us were clamoring for the return of the Steiners and the Warriors, weren't we really asking for the return of the 1980s version of both teams?

Fact: Rick and Scott Steiner haven't held the WWF World tag team title since 1993 and haven't held the WCW World tag belts since 1992.

Fact: The Road Warriors haven't held the WWF World tag team title since 1992 and haven't held the WCW World tag team title since 1989.

Does 1989 sound like a long time ago? It should. For a professional

wrestler, it's an eternity ago.

The Steiners and Warriors are back, but they're not in 1989 form. They're in 1996 form. It would be nice if they could return to that 1989 form, but I don't think it will ever happen. The most we could ask is that they come close.

When was the last time you saw Hawk and Animal storm the ring and overwhelm their opponents before the bell sounded?

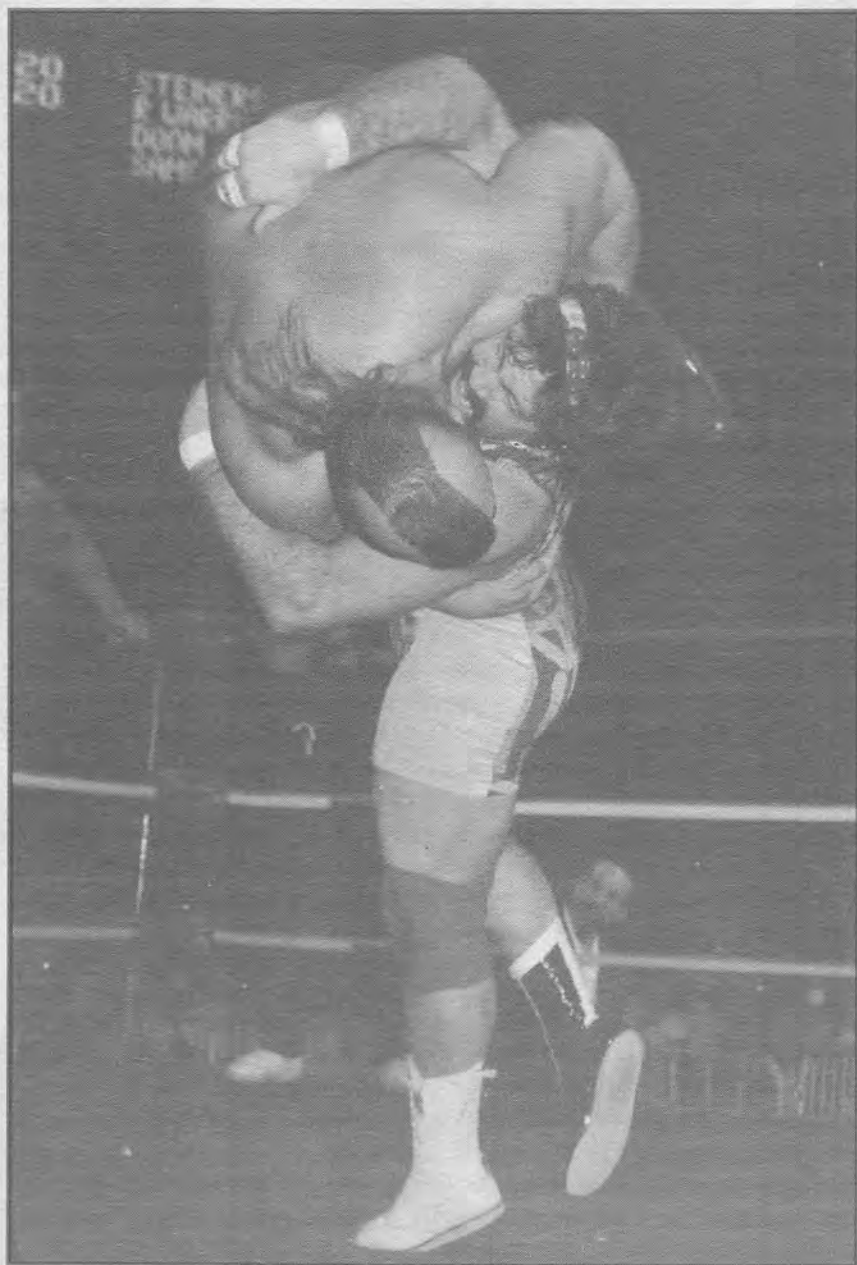
When was the last time the

Steiners got down into that three-point stance and scared the living daylights out of their opponents?

In pining for the good ol' days of the Warriors and Steiners, maybe what we were really hoping for was the arrival of a new tag team that could add some life to the WCW and WWF tag team pictures. Maybe that new tag team is already here: Public Enemy.

Then again, it's possible I'm get-

(Continued on page 74)



Any time The Road Warriors and Steiners clashed in the 1980s, everyone knew it would be a classic, high-energy match. Dave Rosenbaum argues that it's unrealistic for us to expect either team to be as good now as they were then.

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the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

NEWS ITEM: Diesel jumping (back) to WCW!

There have been teams so overloaded with talent that their rosters have mocked the idea of competitive balance. Yet many of these teams (1985 Georgetown Hoyas, '87 Oakland Athletics, '91 Mike Tyson, to name several) have not won the championships of their respective sports. No matter how good they looked on paper, they still had to go out and play the game. And that's when things got interesting.

Likewise, a great script, wonderful actors, and a brilliant director do not guarantee a great movie, though you would grow old trying to convince Ted Turner of this. Since embarking on the spending spree that has brought Hulk Hogan and now Diesel to WCW, Turner has done everything fiscally imaginable to bring his rival WWF to its knees.

But more isn't always better. Without its marquee attractions, the WWF has had to rely on a long-dormant weapon—a sense of humor—to keep up with the Turners. WWF spoofs of Turner board meetings, featuring "The Huckster," "Billionaire Ted," "The Nacho Man," "Scheme Gene," and "Larry Fling" are as

inspired as any Monty Python skit.

Of course it isn't wrestling. But the WWF was never known for its wrestling. That it can maintain its tradition without its biggest stars speaks volumes for its resiliency. The WWF reminds me of the intrepid cockroach. It can survive anything.

By the way, Diesel had better hope his second stint in WCW is better than his first, and he better find a better name than Vinnie Vegas this time around, because it doesn't look like he'll be leaving many friends behind in the WWF. Let's see, the way I see it, he has The Undertaker, Bret Hart, and now Shawn Michaels on his hate list.

Everything was going great for him until he decided out of nowhere to bash Shawn with a chair during a tag team match on St. Patrick's Day in Madison Square Garden. Shawn, you see, was his partner at the time.

(Continued on page 76)



Yes, this is how Diesel looked before he was Diesel. He was Vinnie Vegas when last we saw him in WCW, and I hope he comes up with a better name when he heads back there. I just can't see *Vinnie Vegas* beating Hulk Hogan.

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ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

I WAS RECENTLY invited to lecture a graduate school program studying the changing roles of women in contemporary society.

The list of questions they requested I address in my speech included the following:

1. How have women improved

physically in your sport?

2. Is there a single event that altered the public perception of women in your sport?

3. Where do you see women in your sport going in the next 10 years?

Given the prestige of the program (this particular university rejected me when I applied as an undergraduate student) and the generous fee they were paying, I was very honored. I was also in select company; the list of speakers who preceded me included a dogsled racer, a police captain, and an Olympic hurdler. All of them had given inspired lectures about the great strides women had made in their respective fields.

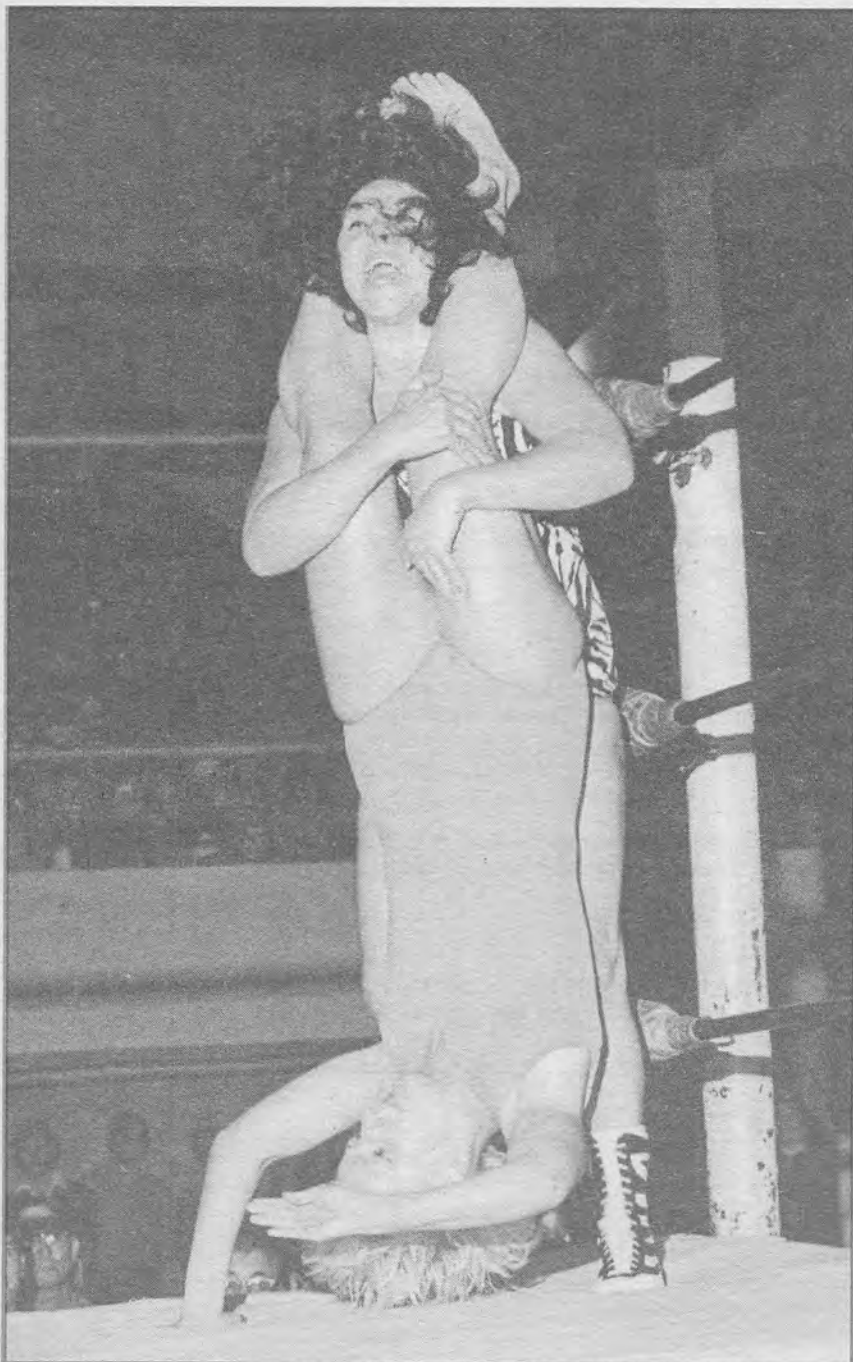
The invitation itself got me thinking about women's wrestling.

The first match I ever saw involving women was between Vicki Williams and the omnipotent Fabulous Moolah. I can't say it was a watershed event in my life. I was waiting impatiently for the main event between Haystacks Calhoun, who was then my favorite, and Moondog Mayne. I watched the ladies and rooted for the underdog Williams because I liked her black roots and blonde hair and she wrestled barefoot. But Moolah was a force of nature in the midst of a long winning streak, and she made short work of her opponent.

I became a fan. Twenty-five years ago, a lot of big wrestling cards offered not only a women's singles match, but a tag team match as well, and I quickly immersed myself in the women's circuit, which Moolah dominated as no athlete ever has.

"I was fortunate," Moolah

(Continued on page 78)



Women's wrestling was very strong in the early-1970s, when the likes of Fabulous Moolah and Vicki Williams had some great matches. Moolah isn't happy with the state of women's wrestling today.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

WRESTLING REVUE

Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, *The Wrestler*, and *Inside Wrestling*, among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

Fall 1961 Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. \$25

December 1961 An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. \$35

February 1962 Dick Beyer, Mitsuru Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. \$30

April 1962 Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Yulie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. \$30

June 1962 Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. \$25

December 1963 The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. \$35

February 1964 Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. \$35



BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News*, an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring aficionados the world has ever known.

May 1959 Boxing: Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. **Wrestling:** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. \$25

June 1959 Boxing: Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. **Wrestling:** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omayo Kato. \$35

September 1959 Boxing: Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. **Wrestling:** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. \$25

October 1962 Boxing: Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! **Wrestling:** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. \$30

October 1963 Boxing: Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. **Wrestling:** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. \$25

February 1964 Boxing: Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. **Wrestling:** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. \$30

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING REVUE

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- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
- ☐ December 1963
- ☐ February 1964

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INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE ²⁴²

BRIAN PILLMAN

HE'S A LOOSE cannon! Brian Pillman used to be a fairly mild-mannered aerial expert, but boy has he changed! He was kicked out of The Four Horsemen and WCW altogether in February and has since been showing up in ECW to antagonize Shane Douglas (*"Just makin' his life hell"*) ... Cincinnati native (and former player for the NFL's Bengals) began his wrestling career in 1986 in Calgary, where he was trained by Stu Hart and family (*"I'm the best they ever*

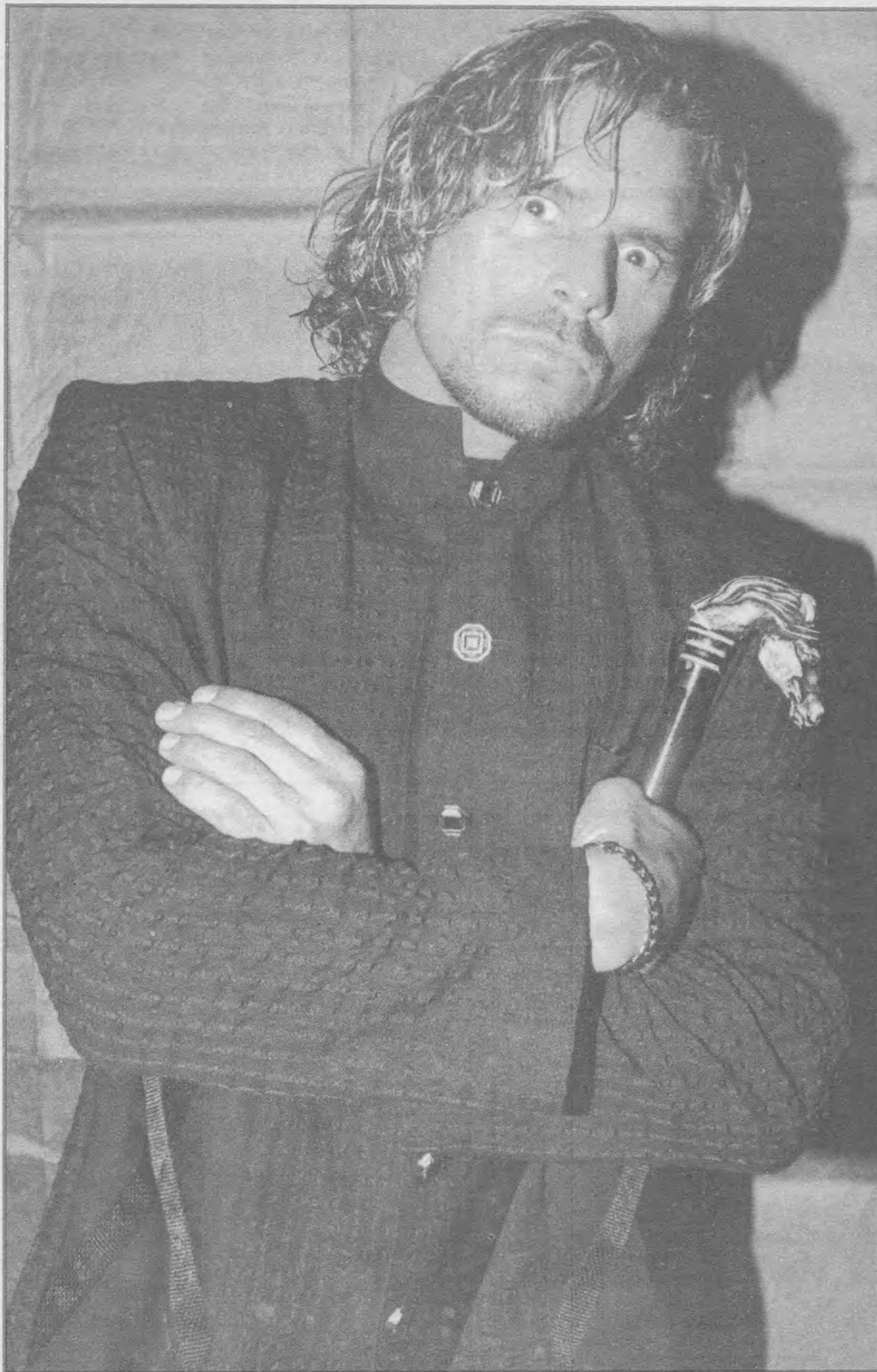
saw!") ... Had some success teaming with Bruce Hart in Canada before joining the NWA in 1989 ... Began teaming with Scott Hall (Razor Ramon), but that partnership never went far ... Outstanding high-flyer began challenging U.S. champion Lex Luger in late-1989 (*"Not impressed by the guy"*) ... After coming up short in matches against Luger, Pillman went back to tag teams, and he and Tom Zenk captured the revived NWA U.S. tag team title by beating The Freebirds in a tournament final in February 1990 (*"I carried the team, of course!"*) ... Was injured

at the hands of The Midnight Express later that month when Jim Cornette repeatedly smashed his tennis racket into Pillman's throat (*"I can think of a lot of people I'd like to do that to today"*) ... Got several shots at then-World champion Ric Flair and almost beat him ... He and Zenk lost the U.S. tag belts to The Midnight Express in May of 1990 ... Was briefly part of Sting's "Dudes With Attitudes" ... Was attacked by The Four Horsemen during one of his matches with Barry Windham in February 1991 and began feuding with them (*"The only way they could beat me was four-on-one"*) ...

Twice won the WCW light heavy-weight title (October 1991, February 1992) and had some thrilling battles with Japan's Jushin Liger in the process (*"Not in my class"*) ... He and Steve Austin formed The Hollywood Blonds and won the WCW World tag team title from Rick Steamboat and Shane Douglas in March 1993 (*"Douglas will never get over that one. Too bad!"*) ... Even though Pillman and Austin often bickered, they successfully defended the belts against many top teams ... Austin and Lord Steven Regal (subbing for an injured Pillman) lost the title to Paul Roma and Arn Anderson in August of 1993 (*"Austin's fault—I wasn't there"*) ... He and Austin split after "Stunning" Steve decided to sign with manager Col. Rob Parker ... Pillman ended up beating Parker in a "loser-must-wear-a-chicken-suit" match (*"I ain't no chicken"*) ... Got frustrated when promoters refused to give him the title matches he wanted ... Was stuck wrestling mid-card matches for months on end ... Finally rose to prominence again when he, Arn, Flair, and Chris Benoit re-formed the Horsemen ... Frequently got into arguments with his fellow Horsemen and Dungeon of Doom leader Kevin Sullivan in the ensuing months (*"I admit it—I'm a loose cannon!"*) ... Left WCW after a strap match with Sullivan at SuperBrawl VI, but showed up in the audience during a recent Monday Nitro (*"Where I am headed? Maybe WCW, maybe ECW again, maybe the WWF, maybe the USWA, maybe all of 'em, maybe none of 'em"*). □



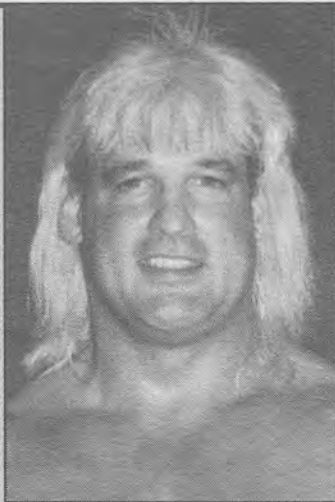
Brian Pillman was more cocky and obnoxious than ever during his last days in WCW. He proved he had the ability to beat stars such as Eddy Guerrero, and he had just as much fun taunting them.



BRIAN PILLMAN

Where Are They NOW

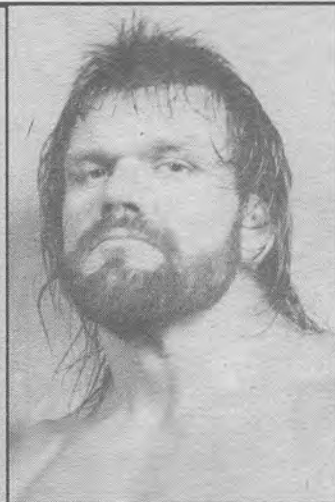
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



ROD PRICE

Price has been wrestling in several Texas independents of late and says he wants make a career move soon. "I might be going to a national promotion in the very near future," the three-time former Global Wrestling Federation North American champion said.

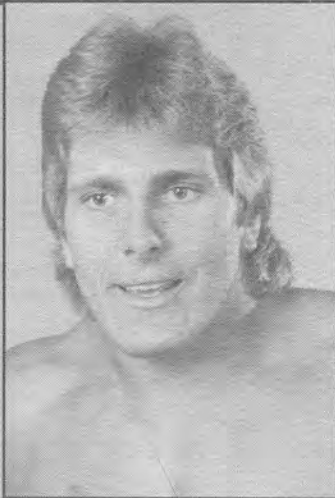
Sources say that Ted DiBiase has been negotiating with Price, who wrestled at a WWF TV taping in March, and might team him with Steve Austin in the WWF. No contracts had been signed as of press time, however.



STEVE WILLIAMS

After a long layoff, during which he devoted most of his time to his family and to managing his gym, Williams has returned to action. "Dr. Death" is competing in several independents and said he plans to return to Japan, where he is a former

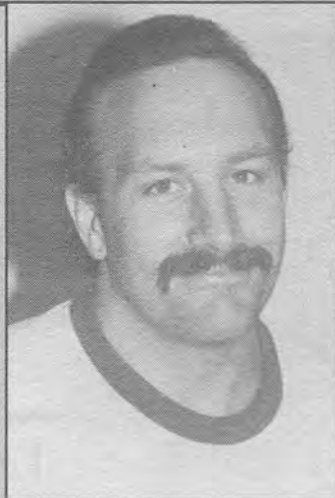
Triple Crown champion, soon. "I still have some unfinished business in the ring in Japan," he said. "I may not spend as much time there as I used to, but that's because I want to see all my American fans, too."



LANCE VON ERICH

Von Erich, who competed regularly in Texas in the 1980s, moved to South Africa a few years ago, and he continues to wrestle and promote there, as well as in Malaysia. Lance defeated Vampire Warrior, among others, on his most recent tour of Malaysia. "I

love when friends like Dick Murdoch come to tour here in South Africa," he said. "We talk about wrestling in the United States and all that's going on. I don't have plans to come back, though."



PAUL ELLERING

The former manager of The Road Warriors lives in a suburb of Minneapolis, where he buys and sells commodities and owns several businesses, including a gym (where he works out daily) and a company called "Kan-du Dog Sled Tours."

Ellering, the 1984 Manager of the Year, has his priorities in order: "Despite all this work," he said, "I still have plenty of time for my wife Deborah and my kids Rebecca, Rachel, and Saul."

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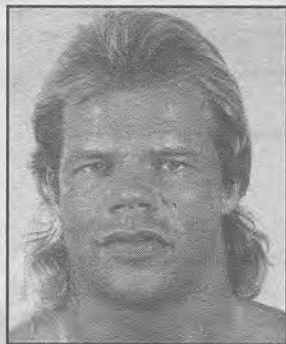
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NEWS FROM THE

COLUMBIA, SC
BY AL JONES



LEX LUGER
VS.
ARN ANDERSON



Most of the fans at the Township Auditorium weren't cheering too loudly for Luger when he entered the ring, but as the match went on, they were definitely behind him. Arn tried mocking Luger's posing routine before the bout, but that only got Lex angry. Midway through the bout, after wearing down his foe with kicks and forearm smashes, Luger powerslammed Anderson, then signalled that he would be going for another. But as Luger whipped Arn into the ropes, referee Randy Anderson was knocked down. As Lex tried to revive the referee, Anderson hit Luger with a pair of brass knuckles and pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: The Belfast Bruiser beat Bobby Walker ... Big Bubba Rogers pinned The Renegade ... Sgt. Craig Pittman pinned Kurasawa ... Johnny B. Badd defeated "Diamond" Dallas Page ... Marcus Bagwell & Scotty Riggs defeated Bobby Eaton & David Taylor ... WCW World champion Ric Flair beat Sting by disqualification.

WORCESTER, MA
BY BRAD HERRON



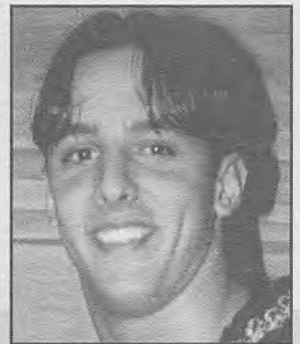
BRET HART
VS.
THE UNDERTAKER



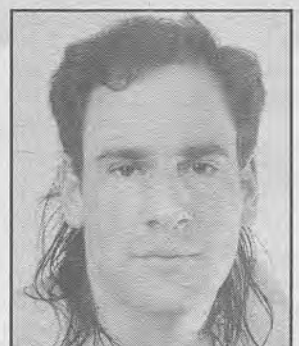
Goldust did his best to ruin this much-anticipated match. He confronted Undertaker at the outset of the match, but fled after 'Taker chopped him in the throat. Undertaker then took over the match, with WWF champ Hart trying in vain to make a comeback. Bret broke free of Undertaker's clutches as he went for his "tombstone" piledriver, but he hit the referee in doing so. Hart then rolled up 'Taker, but the referee couldn't make a count. From there, the two men began brawling at ringside. That's when Goldust showed up again and piledrived Undertaker. Only Hart made it back into the ring before the referee's 10-count.

OTHER BOUTS: Henry & Phineas Godwinn beat Skip & Zip ... Steve Austin beat Marty Jannetty ... The Kid pinned Bob Holly ... Ahmed Johnson defeated Tatanka ... Savio Vega beat WWF Intercontinental champ Goldust by countout ... Owen Hart beat Aldo Montoya ... Shawn Michaels pinned Davey Boy Smith.

NORTHAMPTON, PA
BY JACK WARREN



KID FLASH
VS.
ACE DARLING

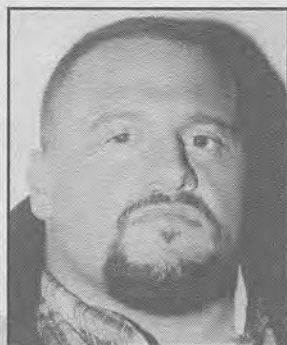


These two young high-flyers showed an enthusiastic Trans World Wrestling Federation crowd just why they are touted as future stars. Darling superkicked Flash over the top rope early on, then dove over the ropes toward him, but Flash moved, and Darling hit his own manager, Johnny Glitter, instead. Ace later recovered and bulldogged Flash, then executed a "Frankensteiner." After that, Darling held Flash so Glitter could throw glitter in his eyes. Flash moved out of the way, though, and Glitter hit his own man. One side suplex and one moonsault later, Flash had a victory by pinfall.

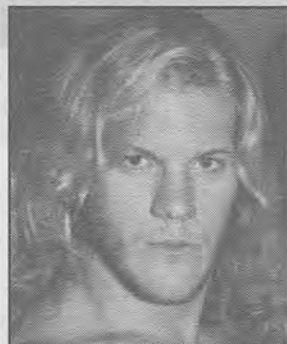
OTHER BOUTS: The Madd Russian defeated Bob Starr ... Jack Hammer defeated The Metal Maniac ... Manny Problems defeated Raul Ruiz by reverse decision ... Kattrra defeated The Nasty Angel ... Hardened Steel beat The Felton Street Gang by disqualification ... Jimmy Snuka pinned Bob Backlund ... Doink the Clown defeated Bam Bam Bigelow by disqualification.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

PHILADELPHIA, PA
BY JOE VINCENT



TAZ
VS.
CHRIS JERICHO



Taz considers himself *the* master of the suplex, but he came up against another man who knows a few variations of that move when he ran into Jericho. The two of them executed German suplexes, belly-to-belly suplexes, and Taz even threw in a variation he calls a "pygmy suplex." The referee, sensing that Jericho had suffered a head injury after one suplex, tried to stop the bout, but Jericho wouldn't let him. Jericho won by DQ after Bill Alfonso interfered on Taz' behalf.

OTHER BOUTS: J.T. Smith beat Axl Rotten ... ECW tag team champs The Eliminators beat Bubba Ray Dudley & Hack Myers ... Rey Misterio Jr. beat Juventud Guerrera ... Cactus Jack beat Mikey Whipwreck ... The Bruise Brothers wrestled The Pit Bulls to a no-contest ... Sabu beat Big Titan ... ECW champ Raven beat Shane Douglas ... The Gangstas won a three-way match by beating The Sandman & 2 Cold Scorpio, who had earlier beaten The Headhunters.

MEMPHIS, TN
BY JENNIFER HALLMAN



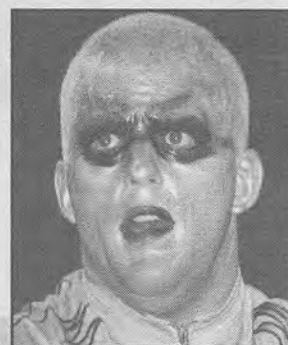
JERRY LAWLER
VS.
MABEL



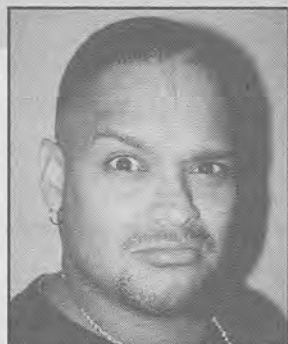
The two finalists in the one-night tournament for the USWA title had to be tired by the time they faced each other, but their fatigue didn't show. Mabel overpowered Lawler with forearms and kicks to the back and a legdrop, but "The King" came back strong. He knocked Mabel to the mat several times. Sensing his friend was in big trouble, Mo interfered and got Mabel disqualified. Lawler was awarded the belt.

OTHER BOUTS: USWA tag team champs Doug Gilbert & Tommy Rich beat PG-13 ... *In first-round matches of the tournament for the vacant USWA heavyweight title:* Jesse James Armstrong beat Tracey Smothers ... Giant Warrior beat King Cobra ... Jerry Lawler and Brian Christopher wrestled to a draw (Lawler advanced when he won a coin-flip) ... Mabel defeated Mo by forfeit ... Spellbinder beat Isaac Yankem by disqualification ... *In second-round matches:* Warrior beat Spellbinder ... Mabel beat Armstrong ... Lawler beat Warrior.

SPRINGFIELD, MA
BY TED GREEN



GOLDUST
VS.
SAVIO VEGA



Vega got quite an ovation from the crowd before the bout, and their cheers seemed to energize him during the early going. He knocked Goldust to the canvas several times with a series of spinning kicks and wheel kicks. Goldust, however, thwarted his attempt at a superplex. Soon thereafter, Goldust fled the ring, but the referee announced over the house microphone that he would award the Intercontinental title to Vega if the champ didn't return. Goldust did so just before the count of 10 and eventually turned the match in his favor. He pinned Vega with his own feet on the ropes.

OTHER BOUTS: Henry & Phineas Godwinn beat Skip & Zip ... Steve Austin beat Marty Jannetty ... Ahmed Johnson beat Tatanka ... Shawn Michaels beat Owen Hart ... WWF World champion Bret Hart defeated Davey Boy Smith ... The Kid defeated Bob Holly ... WWF World champion Bret Hart pinned Shawn Michaels in a lumberjack match.



Matt Brock's **Plain Speaking**

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

MACON, GA

ried. Judging from my experience, I say they'll get you one way or another. Now, out of the blue, Kimberly's saying she might want to get back with Page because she feels sorry for him, which should have Page thinking, *Is she for real, or does she think I have some more money hidden somewhere?* After you're finished pondering that idea, figure out this quote from Kimberly: "Maybe he's changed," referring to Page. "I just hate it when Johnny keeps putting him down. I need to figure out who I want to support. Maybe it's Dallas, maybe it's Johnny, maybe it's neither." Here's the way any blue-blooded American man with a brain would see it: If you're Johnny B. Badd, run as fast as possible in the opposite direction. There's a woman with problems—she's named Kimberly—and if she doesn't know what she wants, she sure as heck doesn't want you. If you're Dallas Page, figure out which way Badd's running, then run the other way as fast as possible and leave the lady in the middle figuring out what or who she wants. Eventually, she'll realize she can't have anyone. Problem with men these days is that they kowtow to anything in a short skirt and heels and let them make the decisions instead

"There ain't nothing like a dame," was how the old show tune went. Don't think "Diamond" Dallas Page is too sure about that. Page used to be one of the richest men in wrestling, but then he lost \$6.6-million to Kimberly in a WCW TV title match against Johnny B. Badd, meaning he lost the alimony even though he wasn't even married.

of deciding for themselves what they want. In my day, men like that were the kind who avoided war and all responsibility. These days, you call them husbands. Not me.



BUBBA RAY DANCES

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Figured this had to happen sometime. The Blue Meanie has challenged Bubba Ray Dudley to a dance-off to determine ECW's best dancing wrestler, and if anybody really cares, please raise your hand and skip-to-my-loo over to the WWF or some other federation where that kind of thing matters. Any hardcore ECW fan oughta be sick to his stomach over this development. All that glitters isn't gold. The WWF has Goldust, WCW has McMichael, and now ECW has sunk to their level. Somebody—maybe Tod Gordon's the one, although he's too busy knocking heads with Bill Alfonso—should blow the whistle and yell 'til they're leather-lunged, "Now hear this! ECW is a wrestling federation, not Arthur Murray's School of Dance!"

For crying out loud, they finally come up with a federation that means business, then a couple of dancing bears have to come along and ruin everything. Get rid of The Blue Meanie and let him take all the Dudley boys with him. What do ECW fans have to look forward to next, Missy Hyatt vs. Francine in a Pillsbury bake-off?

Steve Austin won here again tonight, beating Marty Jannetty to nobody's surprise but Jannetty's, but there's a look in his eyes that says things are about to go wrong again. Somehow it's hard to blame Austin, considering he has run roughshod over his opponents in every federation he's been in, yet no promoter ever wants to give him an even break. Sure, Austin's a former WCW U.S. champion and World tag team champion, but what he really wants is the big belt that promoters keep denying him the chance to win. Austin got title shots once in a while in WCW, but for every one he got, some less-deserving nobody got four or five. It got to the point where Austin started thinking the world was against him, and once he got into that frame of mind, his exit from WCW wasn't far off. Now he's trying again in the WWF, but he might have ended up in the wrong hands of "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase. DiBiase, said one WWF insider, gets his men in position for title shots, but has trouble signing on the dotted line because he's always demanding too much. "DiBiase refuses to gamble on his wrestlers," the insider said. "He wants the money first. He should be thinking, *Okay, forget about the money. We'll win the belt, then the money will come rolling in.* But he keeps demanding these huge advances, and the promoters just won't budge." Some people are saying the once-cocky Austin is now all business, but that remains to be

SPRINGFIELD, MA



STEVE AUSTIN "DREAMS"

seen. He's winning in the WWF, but he hasn't won the big belt (or any belt, for that matter). Until he does, he's done all that before.

Met Sheila Warner for breakfast at that old greasy spoon and ended up with heartburn. She suggested we spend the day together. I said, "How about the Bronx Zoo?" She said, "I had something a little cozier in mind." I didn't. Besides, the Bronx Zoo is cozy enough for me,

especially on a cold, snowy, late-winter afternoon. She wasn't in for the trip. Asked me, "What's the matter, Matt?" I said, "Nothing's the matter, Sheila. It's just that nothing has changed." She told me she had been thinking about us. When she said that, the first thing that came to mind was Kimberly. Good riddance, sweetheart. □

NEW YORK, NY

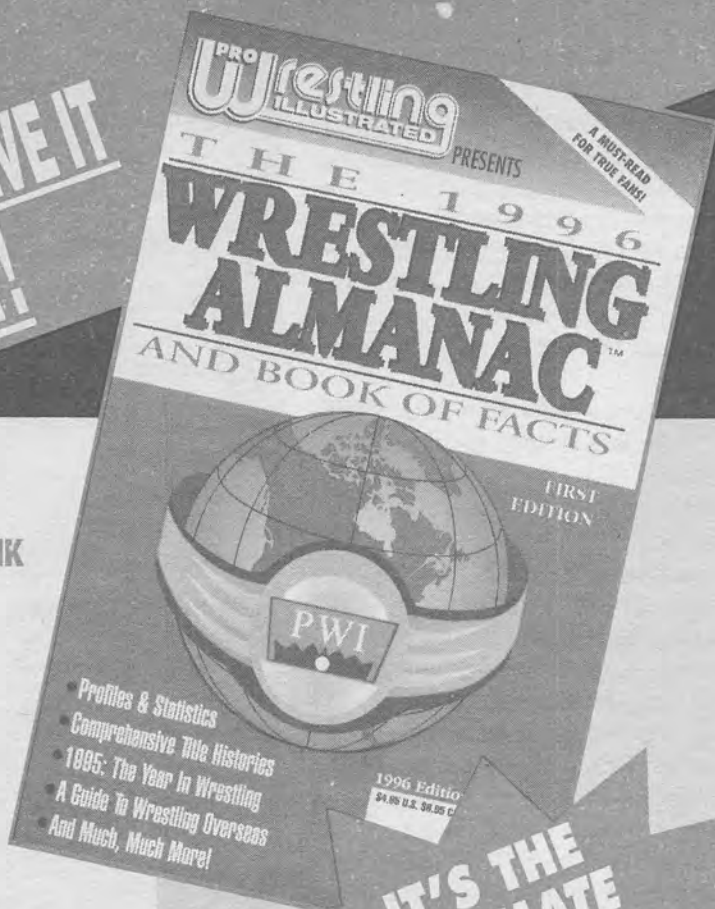
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WHEN YOU SEE IT!**

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Special Section:

Top Stars Answer Your Most Personal—And Offbeat—Questions!

IT'S NOT TOO often that you get the chance to ask a famous person anything you want, especially when that person is a professional wrestler. These days, athletes are more guarded than ever of their personal lives and less willing to discuss subjects outside the game.

But we know for a fact that you want to know everything about your favorite wrestlers. We know this because our offices are flooded every day with mail you send to the wrestlers in care of this magazine and its sister publications. We also know because the wrestlers often exclaim, "Where do they come up with this stuff?"

Sometimes we have to wonder, too, whether the questions we ask in our interviews are really the questions you would ask in the same situation. That's when we realized that while wrestling fans want to know what's going on in the sport, they also want to know what's going on in the athletes' lives. What they're all about. What they think about. What they do on their days off. Basically, what goes into making the complete person.

Well, you're about to find out.

In this exclusive and super special section, we asked the sport's hottest stars some of the very same questions you've asked in your cards and letters. You might never look at the sport—or the superstars—in the same way again.

Ever wondered what Big Van Vader's favorite meal is?

Or what turns Sunny on ... or makes her cry?

Hey, Sherri Martel, what do you really look for in a man?

And Col. Parker, what's your favorite rock 'n' roll act?

Are The Nasty Boys really so nasty?

What made Public Enemy want to enter the squared circle?

What bothers Sting more than anything?

What scares Jim Cornette?

And what's the best gift Mabel ever got?

Even if you're not interested in the wrestlers' personal lives, having the answers to these offbeat questions will give you new insight into the way they operate. Know the man (and woman) and you know the motive.

It's the most unique set of interviews ever published in a wrestling magazine. Read on and take a peek into the lives of these top stars.

Brian Pillman

Women like me because I'm ...

Let me count the reasons: smart, sexy, handsome, great personality, and the best wrestler in the world. The ring isn't the only place I'm exciting

The last good movie I saw was ...

Dumb And Dumber, starring Kevin Sullivan and Hulk Hogan

It really annoys me when people ...

Come up to me on the road and ask me for my autograph. Can't these freaks get a life?

The best part about wrestling is ...

Wrestling. Sometimes I wish we could just get rid of the announcers, the officials, and the referees, and just do what we love, and that's wrestle

My idea of the perfect woman is ...

Someone who's loyal.
She doesn't have to be beautiful

The stupidest thing I ever did was ...

Let anyone tell me what to do.
That will never happen again as long as I live

I don't mean to put myself up on a pedestal, but ...

I'm the sexiest man in wrestling

I really admire this person ...

David Hasselhoff

Favorite food when I'm in the mood to pig out ...

I don't pig out very often, but when I do, it's chocolate chip ice cream and hot fudge



My ideal day off is ...

Sleep in until 10, go to the beach, do a little surfing and some sunbathing, catch lunch at a good restaurant, go back to the beach, and hang out until the sun goes down

I knew I was going to become a wrestler when ...

I was watching it on TV one day when I was like eight years old. I realized I could beat all the guys I was seeing even when I was that young

The person who most influenced my career was ...

Norman the Lunatic

Favorite magazine ...

Mad

People mistake me for ...

Zeus. The Greek God

Favorite sport besides wrestling ...

Surfing

Want to make me happy? Then do this ...

Give me an ice-cold can of beer, a carton of cigarettes, and a porch to sit on

Missy Hyatt ...

Makes me sweat

Chairs: folding or stationary?

Tables: Metal or wood?

Folding chairs, because they're easier to bash over somebody's head. Metal tables, because they don't have any give, and when I hit my opponents with one, it's always lights out

The craziest match I've ever wrestled in was ...

Any of those "Singapore caning" matches I've been in

The best thing about ECW fans is ...

They get into the game. When I wrestle in ECW Arena, I can feel the energy. You know something's going on

Some people call Philadelphia "The City Of Brotherly Love," but to me it's ...

The butt-kickingest city around. The toughest people I've ever known all come from Philadelphia

The biggest difference between Woman and Missy Hyatt is ...

Pretty obvious

My favorite sports team is ...

The Philadelphia Flyers

My favorite meal ...

A Philly cheesesteak with fried onions and a cold one

When people tell me not to smoke, I tell them ...

To go to hell

The stupidest question anyone ever asked me was ...

Some little kid actually asked me if I was really The Sandman. I told him yes, and he started crying

If I could change one thing about wrestling I'd ...

Tell those morons at INSIDE WRESTLING to give the ECW title world title status, because it deserves it

The day I realized I had to become a professional wrestler was ...

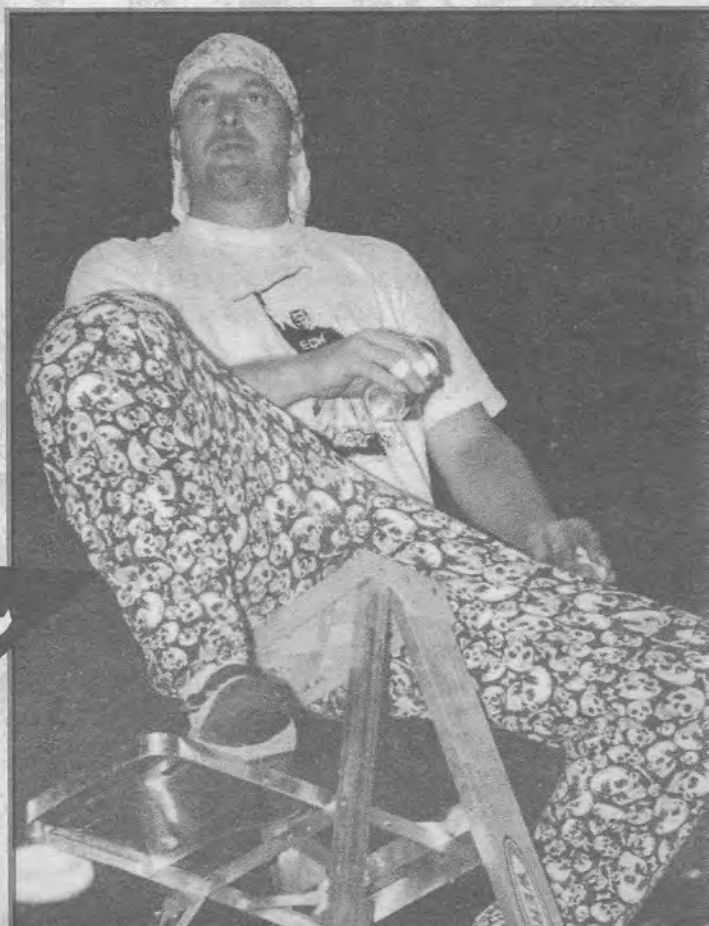
The day in school that a gang attacked me and I kicked the crap out of every one of them, one by one, without any help

This actress or model does it for me ...

Kathleen Turner

Seat belts, on or off?

Off. Gotta live dangerously



The Sandman

Nicest thing I ever heard

Vince McMahon say ...

"I'm an organ donor. Do you need anything?"

Favorite comedian ...

Rodney Dangerfield

It stinks ...

Bret Hart's feet, Helen Hart's armpits,
and Stu Hart's breath

It's more trouble than it's worth ...

Trying to carry McMahon through a
Monday Night Raw broadcast

Favorite country artist ...

Dolly Parton

She'd look great on my arm ...

Pamela Lee

It left me speechless ...

When I heard the other "King's" daughter
married Michael Jackson

This food makes me sick ...

Spinach

It's how I pass time in the dressing room ...

Drawing funny caricatures of other wrestlers

**Most important letter or
fax I ever received ...**

When I found out I was physically
unfit for military service

I'd be great in this commercial ...

Wendy's or McDonald's. Anything where I could
tell people how much I hate Burger King!

It would shut my mouth ...

If Vince's hairpiece would fall off on live TV

**I'm the king, but she's the only one who
might qualify to be my queen ...**

Sandra Bullock

Favorite subject in school

when I was a kid ...

Art

Favorite toy I had when I was a kid ...

My BB gun

**Jerry
Lawler**



Favorite record of all-time ...

Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band,
by The Beatles

**Favorite nickname someone
once gave me ...**

Pumpkin. My mom used to call me that

Favorite male movie star ...

John Travolta

I love this soap opera ...

Days Of Our Lives

I love to pig out on this ...

Frozen yogurt

**I hate when people say
this about women ...**

They're inferior to men

**You can cook me this
meal anytime ...**

Grilled chicken with vegetables

**If my mom were my child,
I would give her this advice ...**

Don't second-guess yourself.
If you think you can do it, you can!

I really admire this person ...

Johnny B. Badd, because of all the charity
work he does outside of wrestling

Favorite possession ...

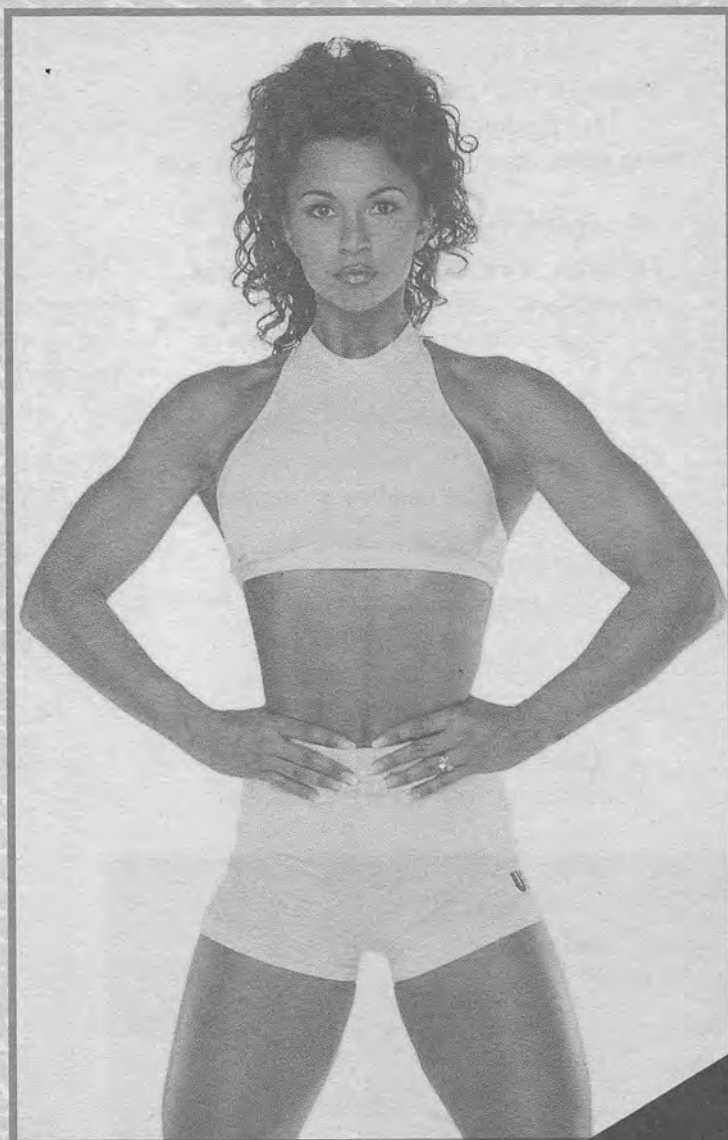
My photo album

I look for this in a friend ...

Supportiveness

**I'd love to have my picture
taken with this person ...**

Racquel Welch



Kimberly

**I'd like to travel back in time
to this period in history ...**

Ancient Egypt, to see how the pyramids were built

Wildest gift a fan ever gave me ...

A talking musical refrigerator

**Biggest problem you run into
when you're on the road ...**

Finding a hotel bed I can fit into. I usually put two three beds together and sleep across them, or I just sleep on the floor

I eat this many meals per day ...

It varies. A lot of times six: breakfast, a mid-morning meal, lunch, a mid-afternoon meal, dinner, and late dinner

**The stupidest question anyone has
ever asked me about my height is ...**

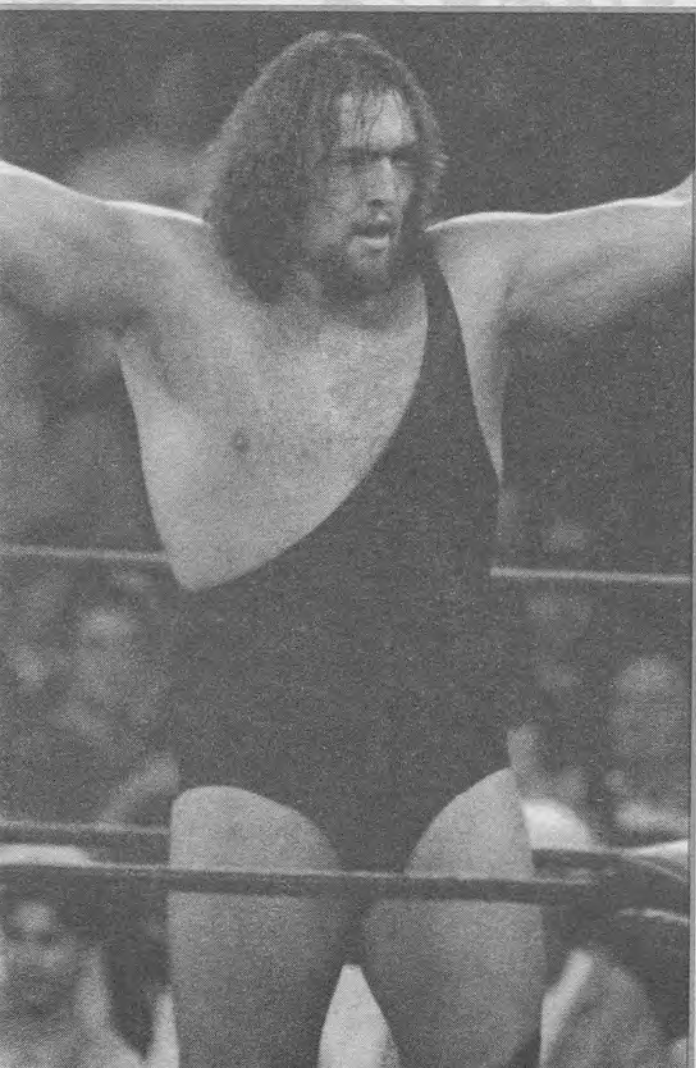
Ever get hit in the head by an airplane?

If I wasn't a wrestler, I'd be ...

In an insane asylum

**If I could change one thing
about the world, I'd ...**

Make it so people would cheer
"Giantmania" instead of "Hulkamania"



My favorite meal is ...

A big steak with a baked potato and a huge salad

The worst thing about being so big is ...

Finding clothes and cars I can fit into

**I almost got in really big trouble
once when I ...**

Shook the hand of a politician really hard.
It turned out he had arthritis, and
he didn't recover for a month!

I really idolize this person ...

Ric Flair. He really paved the way for so many of us!

**The first time I realized I was different
from everyone else was ...**

When I walked into my kindergarten class and
realized I was taller than the teacher

When I have a few minutes to myself I ...

Meditate

**I spent my first dollar of my first
wrestling paycheck on ...**

Baskin Robbins ice cream

It really gets me angry when ...

People criticize me

It was certainly a rude awakening when ...

I found out how many simpleminded
people cheer for Hulk Hogan

If I could do this, I'd retire right now ...

Marry Cindy Crawford

**The
Giant**



Jeff Jarrett

Don't count on it ...

Me not winning the WWF World title belt real soon, and me not getting a Country Music Association award

I feel pity for them ...

Little bugs. The poor things, they're always gettin' crushed by people's feet!

It's just a natural thing for me ...

Being a great lover

Favorite fast food ...

Chicken-fried steak

Favorite board game ...

Risk

It irritates me ...

Long telephone calls in which the person on the other end cannot seem to ever get to his point

It smells great to me ...

Sweat

My ultimate fantasy ...

To change the name of Nashville to Jarrettville

Favorite artist ...

Claude Monet

It gives me goosebumps ...

Watching videotapes of myself singing and wrestling, and watching with me are a roomful of people, and they're all enjoying it as much as I am!

The last famous person to call my house was ...

Garth Brooks, begging to be my opening act on my next tour

Favorite position to play in baseball ...

Shortstop

I'm still following this advice my dad gave me when I was a kid ...

Don't let anything or anyone stand in the way of you achieving all your goals

When I'm lonely ...

I go out partying at the honky tonk clubs in Nashville, where people just mob me for hours, all asking for my autograph!

First thing I do when I get home after a week of wrestling ...

Sit on the couch, get the remote out, and channel-surf

Public Enemy

The most dangerous thing I've ever done is ...

Johnny Grunge: I was wrestling in this tiny arena. My opponent was standing outside the ring, and behind him was a brick wall. I moonsaulted him anyway

Rocco Rock: Go into the bathroom after Johnny had just been in there for a half-hour

The worst thing about being a pro wrestler is ...

JG: Bein' around The Nasty Boys, 'cause they smell so bad

RR: I'll second that

I've always had a crush on this celebrity ...

JG: Pamela Lee

RR: Mariah Carey

Favorite rap group ...

JG: NWA

RR: Bones, Thugs, and Harmony

The historical figure I'd most like to meet is ...

JG: Dr. Timothy Leary

RR: Rocky Marciano

I wish I had more time to do this ...

JG: Go back home and hang out with the boys

RR: Spend time with the ladies.

You know what I mean?

It'll be written on my tombstone ...

JG: He died violently after living violently, just the way he wanted it

RR: Bury me upside down, so the whole world can kiss my butt

My favorite subject in grade school was ...

JG: Lunch

RR: Throwing dice in the stairwell



The best thing about wrestling is ...

JG: Getting blood under your fingernails

RR: Just hurting people you hate

If I wasn't a wrestler, I'd be ...

JG: In jail, probably on death row

RR: In jail, runnin' the place just like James Cagney used to do in those old gangster flicks

This might surprise some people about me. I ...

JG: Have a sensitive side. Wanna see it?

RR: Have witnessed a lot of violent crimes

Money changes everything. How has it changed you?

JG: It gave me a better wardrobe

RR: Lots more women want to get to know me

This would make me happy ...

JG: Unlimited beer, unlimited women, and winning all my bets

RR: Taking Bruce Willis' place in them *Die Hard* movies

The Road Warriors are back in WCW.

Good or bad?

JG: So what!

RR: Who cares?

We're the most dangerous duo ever because ...

JG: Anyone who gets in our way never forgets it

RR: We left a whole trail of bodies, and we're not telling you where to find them

Favorite topping on pizza ...

H: Pepperoni
A: Extra cheese

The best day of my life so far ...

H: When Animal called and told me
he was ready to wrestle again
A: Every day I see my son growing up

I look for this in a friend ...

H: A kick-butt attitude
A: Compassion

If I got into the ring with Mike Tyson ...

H: He'd beg me for mercy!
A: He would get up after I hit him and say, "Hey,
Animal, I never knew anyone could hit that hard!"

Favorite Little Rascals character ...

H: Butch. I love that tough punk!
A: Spanky. Just like me, that kid
was always in trouble!

Favorite pastime ...

H: Spitting
A: Working out

Favorite M & M color ...

H: Blue
A: Brown

Favorite face paint Sting uses ...

H: One time he used a bat, like the one in
Batman. It was awesome!
A: The flame

Smelliest person I ever met ...

H: Cactus Jack
A: Bill Apter. That armpit odor is something else.
It could knock out Tyson!

Favorite late-night talk show host ...

H: Jay Leno
A: David Letterman

It carries me through a tough day ...

H: Watching tapes of us destroying people
A: Thinking of what a great future
we still have ahead of us

The last woman in the world I'd ever trust ...

H: Woman
A: Elizabeth

I'd wait in line for hours to see this ...

H: The seventh game of the World Series
A: The Super Bowl

**Other than Paul Ellering, this guy would
have been a great manager for us ...**

H: Gary Hart
A: Fred Blassie

**Other than my current partner, this guy
would make a great partner for me ...**

H: Bruiser Brody
A: Vader



**The Road
Warriors**



Mabel

**This movie made me laugh so hard,
I almost broke my chair ...**

Don't Be A Menace, starring the Wayans brothers

You can bet on it ...

That King Mabel will remain on top of
wrestling for a long time

It's my hobby ...

Listening to and making music

I miss this the most from my childhood ...

Being carefree

It's the greatest invention in history ...

The telephone

I've proven this point ...

I am the best big man in sports

**Last section I open in the
Sunday newspapers ...**

The financial page

Biggest gamble I ever took ...

Trying to make it in wrestling instead
of going to college

Favorite sandwich ...

Double Whopper

Favorite person to order around ...

Vince McMahon

It makes me sick to my stomach ...

The Monday night wrestling wars

I wish I could do this in the ring ...

A moonsault

Favorite store at the mall ...

Electronic Express in the Harding Mall in Nashville

It brings a tear to my eye ...

Racism in America

Favorite birthday present I ever got ...

My first time making love

**The best thing about the town I come from
(Allentown, Pennsylvania) is ...**

Jerry Sags: The Nasty Boys are from there

BK: My mother

My favorite part of a woman is ...

JS: The last part I see

BK: Her chest

I used to like going here on a date ...

JS: Any motel, anywhere

BK: Roy Rogers take out, eat in the car,
and then go to my house

**If they ever make a movie about my life,
the actor who will play me will be ...**

JS: Steven Seagal

BK: Sean Penn

**If I were President of the United States,
the first thing I'd do is ...**

JS: Move the White House to Allentown

BK: Raise the speed limit to 125

**The hardest part about having
Missy Hyatt as our manager was ...**

JS: Getting used to all that perfume she used to wear

BK: The fans would watch her more than us
when she was at ringside

**I never got the chance to do this as a kid,
but I'd like to do it as an adult ...**

JS: Kick the living crap out of my
seventh-grade English teacher

BK: Read a comic book, cover to cover

Crank up the stereo and put on some ...

JS: AC/DC

BK: Ozzy Osbourne

**The Nasty
Boys**

There's more to me than just ...

JS: Good looks

BK: A great personality

They don't make them like they used to ...

JS: Chevy convertibles

BK: Tough tag teams

**There's one thing I regret about
my wrestling career. I never ...**

JS: Totally destroyed Cactus Jack

BK: Put me down for that, too

Anti-perspirant: Solid or aerosol can?

JS: Solid

BK: Never use it

The last great movie I saw was ...

JS: *Pulp Fiction*

BK: *Sudden Death*

If I wasn't a wrestler, I'd be ...

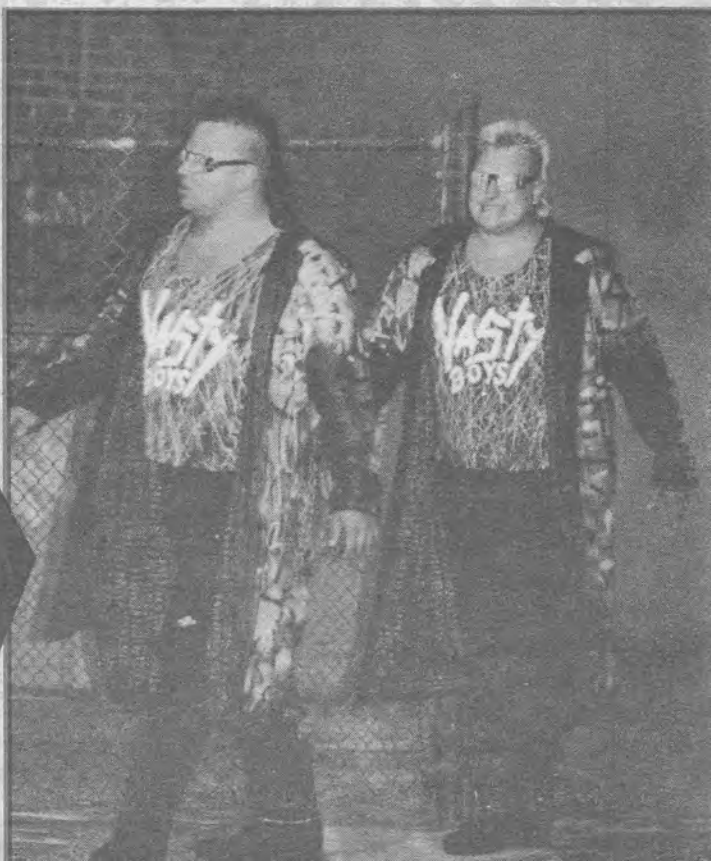
JS: Probably cleaning the streets back home

BK: A hockey player

The best thing about my partner is ...

JS: He always buys the first round

BK: He always buys all the other rounds



Col. Robert Parker

People often mistake me for ...

Gen. Stonewall Jackson

My favorite musical act of all-time is ...

Elvis Presley, of course

My least favorite musical act of all-time is ...

Michael Jackson. Because he put his hands on Elvis' little girl

This might surprise some people, but ...

For a while there, I was actually in love with Sherri

My favorite place to go on vacation is ...

Las Vegas

If I wasn't a wrestling manager, I'd ...

Be the greatest promoter of rock 'n' roll the world has ever seen

I'd love to play this part in a movie ...

Rhett Butler in the sequel to *Gone With The Wind*

The last good book I read was ...

Prince Of Tides

The hardest part about being a manager is ...

Keeping all the boys happy and keeping track of their financial situations

**When I wake up in the morning,
the first thing I do is ...**

Call my secretary for messages



My most prized possession is ...

My collection of hats

It really burns me up when ...

Those ignorant fans chant, "KFC! KFC!" What in tarnation are they referring to, anyway?

**The best part about being involved
in wrestling is ...**

The money and the fame

**The last computer software
program I bought was ...**

Delrina Communications Suite

They don't make these like they used to ...

Rock 'n' roll bands

I wish I had more time to ...

Play with my dogs

I've always had a crush on this actor ...

Kirk Douglas

The thing that hurt me the most was ...

When Col. Parker said he wanted to marry me
but really didn't

People don't know that I'm ...

Soft, warm, and cuddly away from the ring. They see this domineering ogre who's always trying to get her way, but that's just my professional side. When I get home, there's nothing like some soft music and a hot bath

Favorite candy or dessert ...

Godiva hot fudge over vanilla ice cream

When I'm on the road I ...

Sleep a lot and try to find good restaurants

When people find out I'm a wrestler, they ...

Most people already know it, but if they don't, they look at me as if I had two heads. I guess some of them can't believe women wrestle



It really makes me mad when ...

People say women's wrestling isn't exciting. Some of the greatest wrestlers of all-time have been women

Turn me loose for a day in one store and it would have to be ...

Filene's Basement in Boston. I'm not the kind of lady who likes to waste my money on overpriced junk

Favorite thing to do when I'm alone ...

Go for long walks in the woods

The best book I've ever read ...

The Age Of Innocence

It's the strangest thing about men ...

So many of them have this fear of asking me out.

I guess they think I'm going to put them in a figure-four leglock or something

I really wish there ...

Were more opportunities for female wrestlers.

The main reason I started concentrating on managing was because I found myself wrestling the same people over and over

If I were to build my dream house ...

It would be on a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

The rooms wouldn't be huge, but they'd be comfortable, and there'd be a pool, a hot tub, and a sauna

If I could change just one thing about my life I'd ...

Sorry, no regrets

**Sherri
Martel**

I often dream of ...

Crippling Raven—breaking every one of his bones, one by one, and relishing in the sound of them cracking!

The biggest problem with ECW is ...

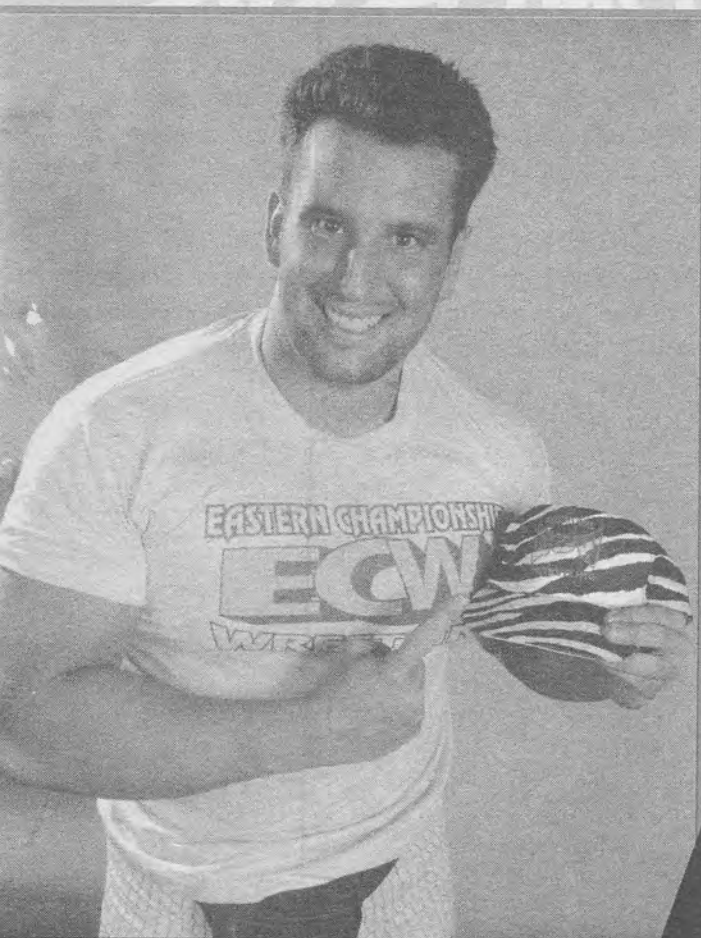
That I'm not the champion yet

My scariest moment ever in a wrestling ring happened when ...

Cactus Jack, that idiot, took a chair that was on fire and threw it at the ropes. Then the towel that was on it flies off and lands on Terry Funk's back. I thought he was gonna die, and I figured the whole old building was gonna go up in flames!

The stupidest person I've ever met was ...

Hands down, The Blue Meanie



It really bothers me that ...

Some people condemn ECW for its hardcore style

I never admitted this before, but the one thing about Woman that attracted me was ...

Her wallet

A lot of women think I'm ...

A god

Here's what I look for in a woman ...

Big brown eyes, nice curves, and beautiful long legs

Give me a million dollars and I'd ...

Buy up the world's largest baseball card collection

One day I'm going to be ...

Extremely wealthy

I read a good book recently. It was called ...

Get Shorty. I wanted to see if the book was different than the movie. It was

When I'm channel-flipping, this one show stops me in my tracks ...

Beavis And Butt-head

It'll be written on my tombstone ...

Lived, laughed, loved, won

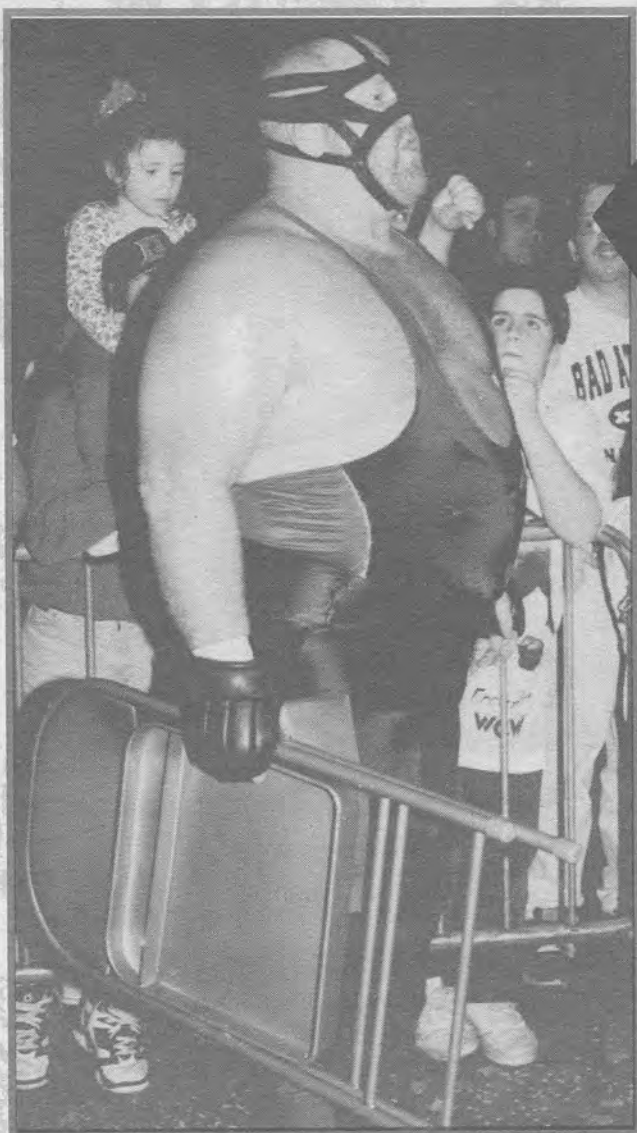
Favorite place to wrestle ...

ECW Arena, Philadelphia, in front of all the great ECW fans

I wish I had more time to ...

Play Nintendo

**Tommy
Dreamer**



Big Van Vader

Women like me because I'm ...

Not a wimp

When people see me for the first time, they think I'm a ...

Hitman

Other than winning three world titles, the most exciting thing that has ever happened in my career is ...

Ripping Cactus Jack's ear off his stupid head

When I'm on the road I always ...

Go to bars and pick fights

When my career is all over, I'll ...

Beat up the promoters and referees who made me mad all these years

Favorite TV show ...

The news

I really admire this person ...

Gen. George S. Patton

I spend a lot of time thinking about ...

Real estate investments

Best friend I ever had in wrestling ...

Harley Race

When I was growing up, people thought I'd end up being ...

In prison

The most dangerous thing I've ever done ...

Drove a sports car into the side of a Mack truck. I wanted to see if the air bags worked. They didn't!

It makes me happy to ...

Hurt people and feel their bones crunching in my hands

People would be surprised to find out that I'm ...

Not as nice a guy as they think

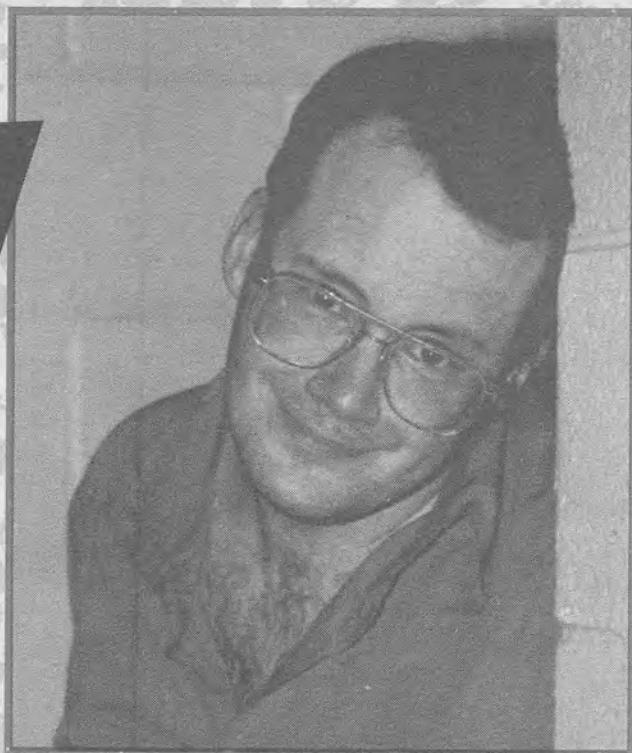
It'll be written on my tombstone ...

Feared none, conquered all, and left behind the ruins

My favorite meal ...

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, and peas

Jim Cornette



Most annoying person I sat next to on an airplane ...

President Clinton. He just wouldn't shut up. He kept asking me how I'd do this, how I'd do that. Had to have the stewardess move me to another seat!

If I were President, this person would be my Vice President ...

Pee Wee Herman. You gotta have some laughs when you have an important job like being President. He'd be a combination Vice President and court jester!

I credit this person for being my inspiration for success ...

Jim Bakker. He proved for so many years that you can fool all of the people all of the time!

Best practical joke I ever played on anyone ...

When I threatened to foreclose on an orphanage right before a massive snowstorm

Favorite place to play tennis ...

I have a fully equipped tennis court right there in my backyard!

Song that meant the most to me in my teen years ...

"Money," by Pink Floyd

The last thing I begged Mama to give me money for ...

Dinner for Yokozuna. She had to use all her money for that. I never saw anyone eat so many Chicken McNuggets in my life. Left her savings account totally blank!

I eat a ton of this stuff, 'cause I just can't stop ...

Wendy's hamburgers

Ugliest woman I ever saw ...

Bob Armstrong's wife. If it wasn't for her acne, she'd have no shape at all!

Only thing I'd lend anyone money to do ...

Buy me presents

It scares me the most ...

Being witness to Yokozuna in the shower

Favorite soda ...

Sprite

It proves how popular I am ...

Every year in Louisville, they hold a Man of the Year banquet in my honor

The last really terrifying thing to happen to me ...

I was almost glued to a table by accident when McMahon's wig glue bottle overturned and I got stuck on it. Luckily there was a sandblaster available!

My lifelong regret ...

That I wasn't born twins

Favorite mode of transportation ...

Motorcycle

It gives me a high ...

Seeing little "Stingers" paint their faces like mine

It brings me down ...

People who tell you they like you and then tell someone else, behind your back, they think you're a jerk

If it's on the menu, I always order it ...

Chicken on a bed of rice with broccoli

I loved this vacation spot ...

St. Martin

Favorite video game I play to kill time at airports ...

Virtua Fighter

Favorite midnight snack ...

Pretzels and peanuts

It really motivates me ...

A great workout, a good swim, and a hot shower

It was a great day ...

Acting with Hulk on *Thunder In Paradise*

Favorite toy as a child ...

My bike

It really bothers me ...

Couch potatoes. "Get up and get in shape, world!"

It bores me ...

People who are one-dimensional

I wish I had more time to ...

Work on convincing people to trust each other

Favorite face paint design on any other wrestler I've ever seen ...

The spider design on Road Warrior Animal's face

It's my motto ...

Be true to your friends and one day they will come around and be true to you as well



Sting

Sunny



It attracts me to a man ...

When he has a hard, muscular, body, and he doesn't mind being controlled by a real woman

In my dreams, he sweeps me off my feet ...

Pro bodybuilder Eddie Robinson

The song that pushes all the right buttons in me ...

"Natural Woman," by Aretha Franklin

My ideal night out consists of ...

A healthy dinner and a two-hour workout session in the gym

The wildest dream I can remember ...

I woke up on a deserted island, and every WWF superstar was there waiting to do *anything* I demanded

It made me cry ...

When I found out I was three pounds overweight once, and also when Skip lost to Barry Horowitz ... again and again and again

He could be the next Bodydonna ...

George Foreman. "We could get him in shape and make him unbeatable!"

A sexy outfit I just love wearing ...

A string bikini

If I could trade places with anyone in history, it would be ...

Marilyn Monroe

Favorite junk food ...

Pizza with grilled chicken on top

No one does this better than me ...

Everything

It really turns me on ...

Having the world at my feet

It really turns me off ...

Smokers, and people who are mean to animals

Favorite thing to get as a gift ...

"You know, diamonds *are* a girl's best friend!"

The perfect lazy day consists of this ...

Sleeping, sleeping, and more sleeping!

I always look forward to this ...

Topping the moves I did in my previous match

She's beautiful to me ...

Sade

It is my most valued possession ...

The relationship I have with The Sheik

A daredevil stunt I still have yet to do, but would like to ...

Free-falling after diving out of an airplane at 30,000 feet

Favorite meat ...

Steak

It excites me ...

Danger

Favorite movie of all-time ...

All the Indiana Jones films

Favorite TV show of all-time ...

The Addams Family

I despise it ...

Mingling with people at parties. I like to be alone!

I still cannot figure this out ...

Why people say I am so great

Favorite song ...

"Wild Thing" by The Troggs

Last dream I had ...

I was swimming in my favorite watering hole when I was a child in Bombay

If I had a million dollars ...

I would buy my mother the home she has always dreamed of having

Favorite fictional character ...

Dracula. It's cool they way he likes to drink blood!

Dumbest thing I ever did ...

I once accidentally drove a car through a window of a doughnut shop



Shawn Michaels



It attracts me to a woman ...

A great body and brains

Favorite vacation spot ...

Jamaica

I'd love to play a romantic lead opposite her ...

Demi Moore or Sandra Bullock

The best lesson I ever learned ...

Be careful what you wish for,
because you just might get it

Favorite comic character ...

Snoopy

This person is my best friend ...

My mom

I collect these ...

Phone numbers

Favorite romantic singer ...

Shania Twain

Favorite movie of all-time ...

The Godfather

Favorite perfume on a woman ...

Victoria

**I respect this person's opinion
more than anyone's ...**

My dad's

I haven't done this yet, but I still intend to ...

Get married and have kids

Dumbest thing I've ever done ...

Go out in Syracuse, New York

**If people say this about me,
it hurts my feelings ...**

That I'm not honest

It's sexy to me ...

A woman sweating while she's training

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Stan Hansen won the AWA World title by defeating which champion?

- 1) Rick Martel
- 2) Nick Bockwinkel
- 3) Curt Hennig
- 4) Verne Gagne

The largest crowd ever to witness a pro wrestling show (190,000) was in what city?

- 1) London, England
- 2) Toronto, Ontario
- 3) Pyongyang, North Korea
- 4) Tokyo, Japan

True or False: Hulk Hogan is the only wrestler to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following cities did NOT host a portion of WrestleMania II?

- 1) Chicago, Illinois
- 2) Atlantic City, New Jersey
- 3) Uniondale, New York
- 4) Los Angeles, California



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WARRIOR!

Why He'll Save The WWF
Why He'll Sink The WWF

The Ultimate Warrior's return to the WWF is front-page news around the wrestling world, but is it good news or bad news?

By Dave Lenker

PRIOR TO WrestleMania XII, the last time The Ultimate Warrior wrestled in the WWF was in 1992. Ric Flair was a top contender to the World title, then held by Bret Hart, as was "Macho Man" Randy Savage. The WWF top 10 included Rick Martel, Shawn Michaels, Razor Ramon, Davey Boy Smith, Kamala, and, of course, the Warrior.

Fast forward to mid-1996 and things look quite different in the WWF. Savio Vega, Ahmed Johnson, and Duke Droese have invaded the top 10. Flair and Savage are in WCW. Goldust, the former Dustin Rhodes, is the Intercontinental champion. Over in WCW, the top 10 includes Flair, Sting, Savage, Hulk Hogan, and Lex Luger. Diesel and, probably, Razor Ramon, are headed there soon. When it comes to superstars, WCW is way out in front.

That's why The Ultimate Warrior's return is welcome news for the WWF, its fans, and even its wrestlers. A federation that once prided itself on its marquee superstars is sorely in need of a big name. The Ultimate Warrior is that big name.

The Warrior's slam-bang style won't do anything to improve the quality of wrestling in the WWF, but his presence, personality, and colorful appearance will do wonders for the federation.

The Ultimate Warrior is one of the most popular wrestlers of all-time. With a superhero's body and adrenaline that's always on overdrive, the Warrior is the perfect

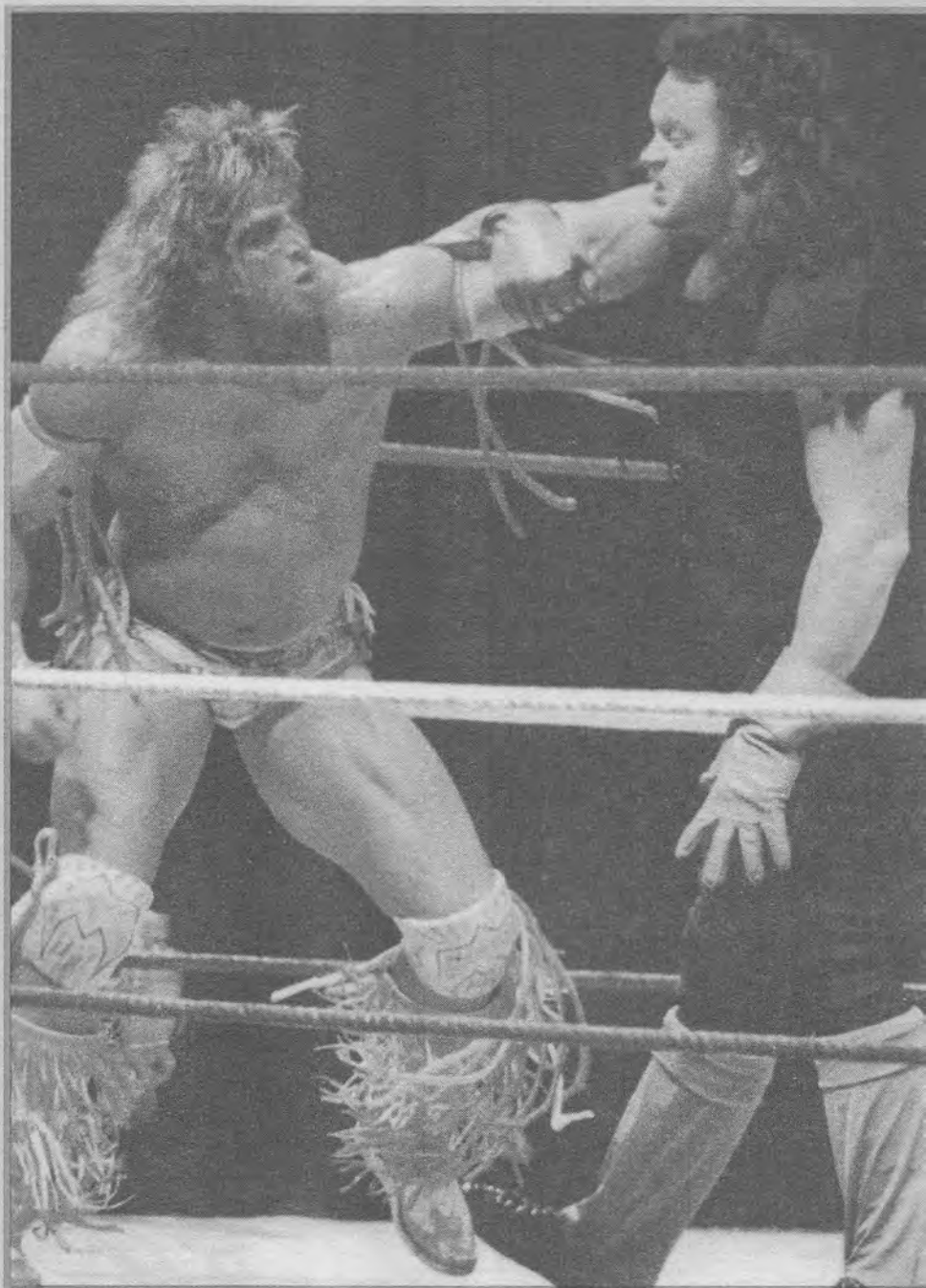
throwback to the late-1980s and early-1990s, when the WWF was the sport's dominant force. His return will generate incredible interest and curiosity, much like Magic Johnson's and Michael Jordan's return to the NBA. A superstar is back. Let's see what he has left.

Warrior's incredible effect on the fans can't be overstated. He

goes wild. They go wild. We all go wild. Suddenly, the building is filled with nervous anticipation. What will the Warrior do next?

The WWF needs this man.

Three years ago, the WWF didn't even recognize WCW. Then WCW signed Hogan, Flair, Savage, Luger, Beefcake, Okerlund, Madusa, Duggan, and



The Ultimate Warrior-Undertaker feud never really was settled, was it? If these two meet up in the ring again, you can bet a lot of people will be interested in seeing what happens.



Although he looked rusty and his timing was somewhat off, Warrior did win his comeback match last July against The Honky Tonk Man. He'll be facing tougher competition in the WWF.

in thinking Warrior is the man to even out the playing field, it could wind up paying a terrible price.

The home of the "New Generation" is once again the home of a living legend.

The many WWF wrestlers who have fought their way into the spotlight could be bitter over having been

pushed aside by a man who hasn't wrestled in the federation since 1992 and hasn't wrestled regularly in nearly four years.

By signing the Warrior, the WWF sent a negative message to its wrestlers. The message was, "You're not good enough to carry us."

The Ultimate Warrior, a wild, out-of-control powerhouse who never was and never will be much of a technical wrestler, might not do anything to help the WWF in the long run. He could disappear again at a moment's notice, and does anyone expect him to be as good or as dominant as he once was?

Some say it's too bad the WWF strayed from its path. Although WCW has signed most of the big names, it has been able to maintain a strong share of the market. WCW still runs far fewer arena cards than the WWF, is barely

Heenan, and the WWF had to pay attention. When WCW signed Diesel, the WWF publicly admitted it can't win a bidding war against WCW, backed by Ted Turner's billions.

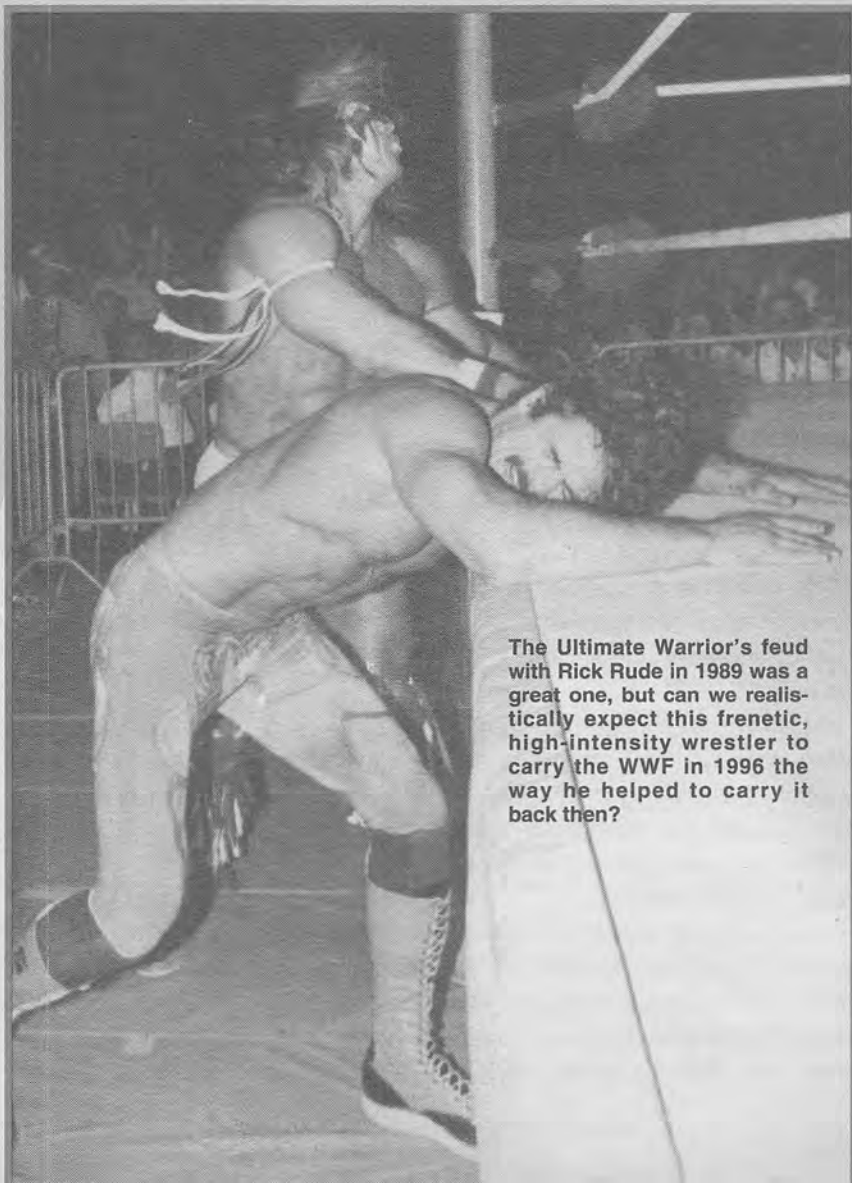
Two years ago, the WWF owned Monday nights with its *Monday Night Raw*. Now WCW wins the *Monday Nitro* vs. *Monday Night Raw* wars more often than it loses.

The WWF built itself on superstars. Now it's the home of the "New Generation." Given the choice between future stars and current stars ... especially since WCW has most of the top young wrestlers, too.

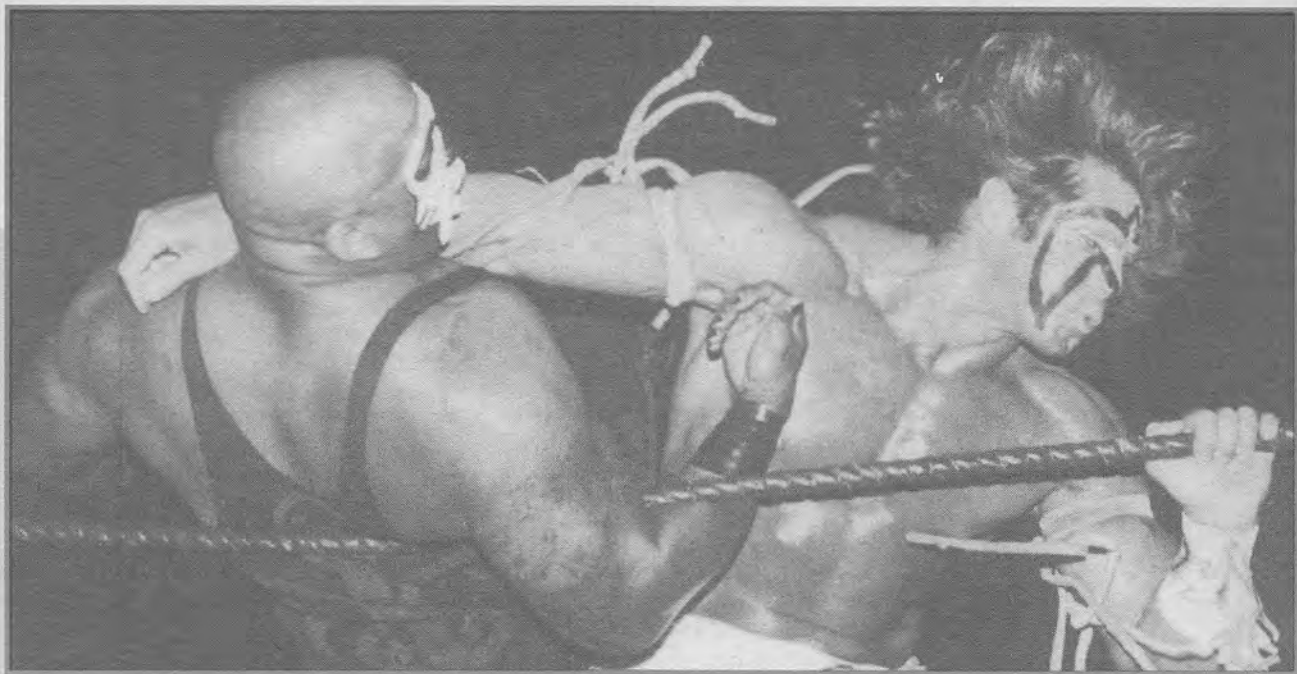
What can a genuine superstar like The Ultimate Warrior do for the WWF? It's simple: He can make the WWF the WWF again. But before you believe all this, remember that ...

... desperate people do desperate things.

Desperate people stray from a reasonable game plan and panic. The WWF's signing of The Ultimate Warrior could be considered a panic move by a desperate federation that must think it can no longer compete with its main competitor. If the WWF miscalculated



The Ultimate Warrior's feud with Rick Rude in 1989 was a great one, but can we realistically expect this frenetic, high-intensity wrestler to carry the WWF in 1996 the way he helped to carry it back then?



Remember when one clothesline from the Warrior was enough to send rulebreakers such as Papa Shango flying over the top rope? It has been four years since he was a dominant force in wrestling. *Four long years.*

beating the WWF in the Monday night TV wars (and losing some weeks), and is by no means dominating the pay-per-view audience. Fact is, the WWF still wins more than it loses.

This is happening because the WWF spent so many years as the dominant federation, a lot of people still think it is number one. Like a rollercoaster, the WWF's momentum carried it downhill and then back uphill.

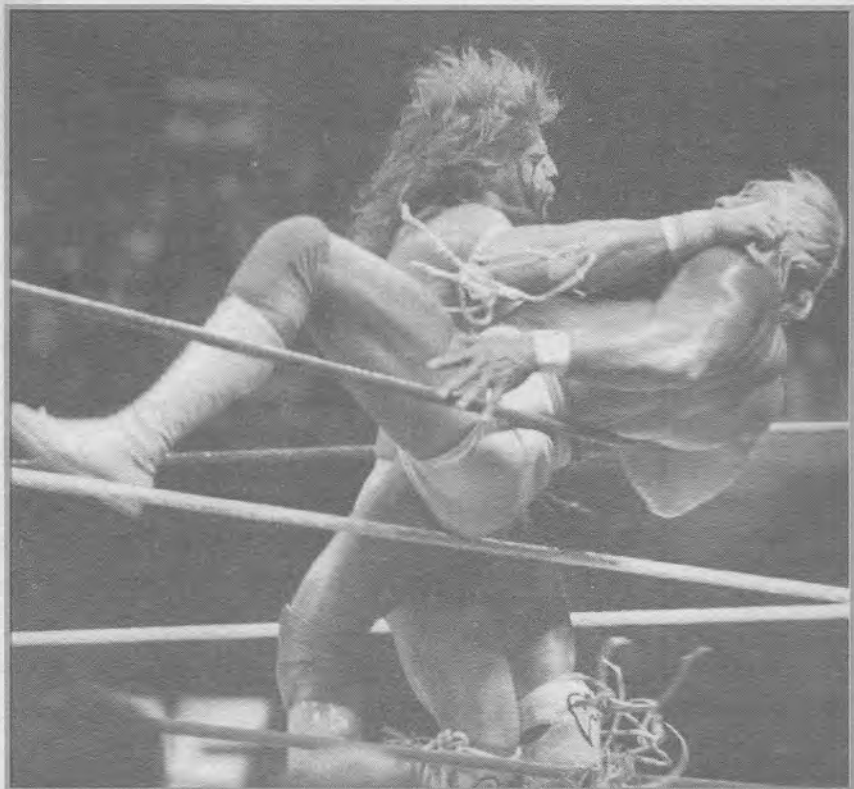
All the WWF really had to do was wait. It's all a matter of business sense. WCW is not getting enough in return for its payroll dollar. At some point, WCW is bound to rid itself of some of those huge contracts.

That's the business side of this situation. The people side—the one that matters even more—has several WWF wrestlers bitter over being pushed aside by the late-arriving Warrior. The Warrior stepped in and stole the spotlight they worked so hard to acquire. Sure, life isn't fair, but the WWF has a solid corps of

outstanding wrestlers that it can't afford to get angry. The WWF's strong suit is now solid wrestlers, not one-dimensional brawlers

like the Warrior.

The federation is taking a huge gamble. Perhaps the Ultimate gamble. □



Unless Hulk Hogan makes a drastic career move, Warrior won't meet up with his old rival the "Hulkster" this time around in the WWF. He will meet a lot of young, hungry, talented opponents, though.

DIESEL VS. HULK HOGAN

Previewing The Inevitable Clash

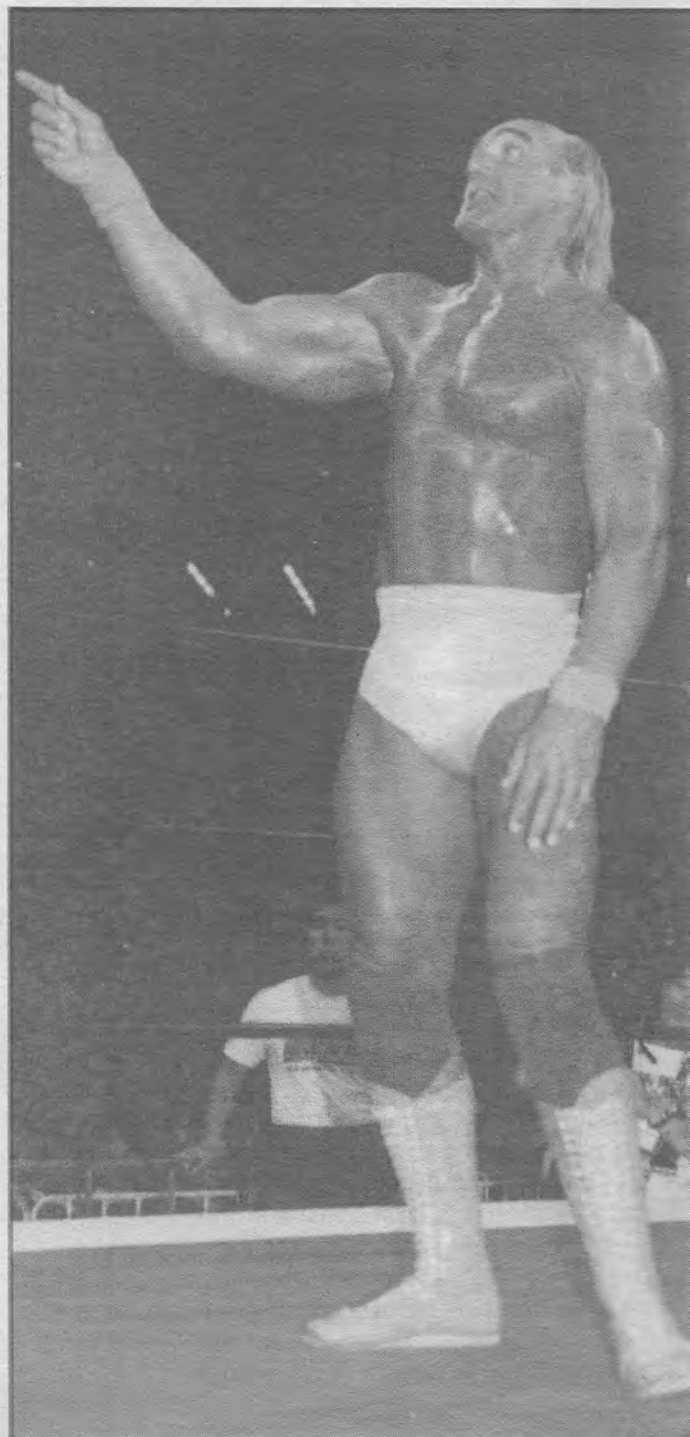
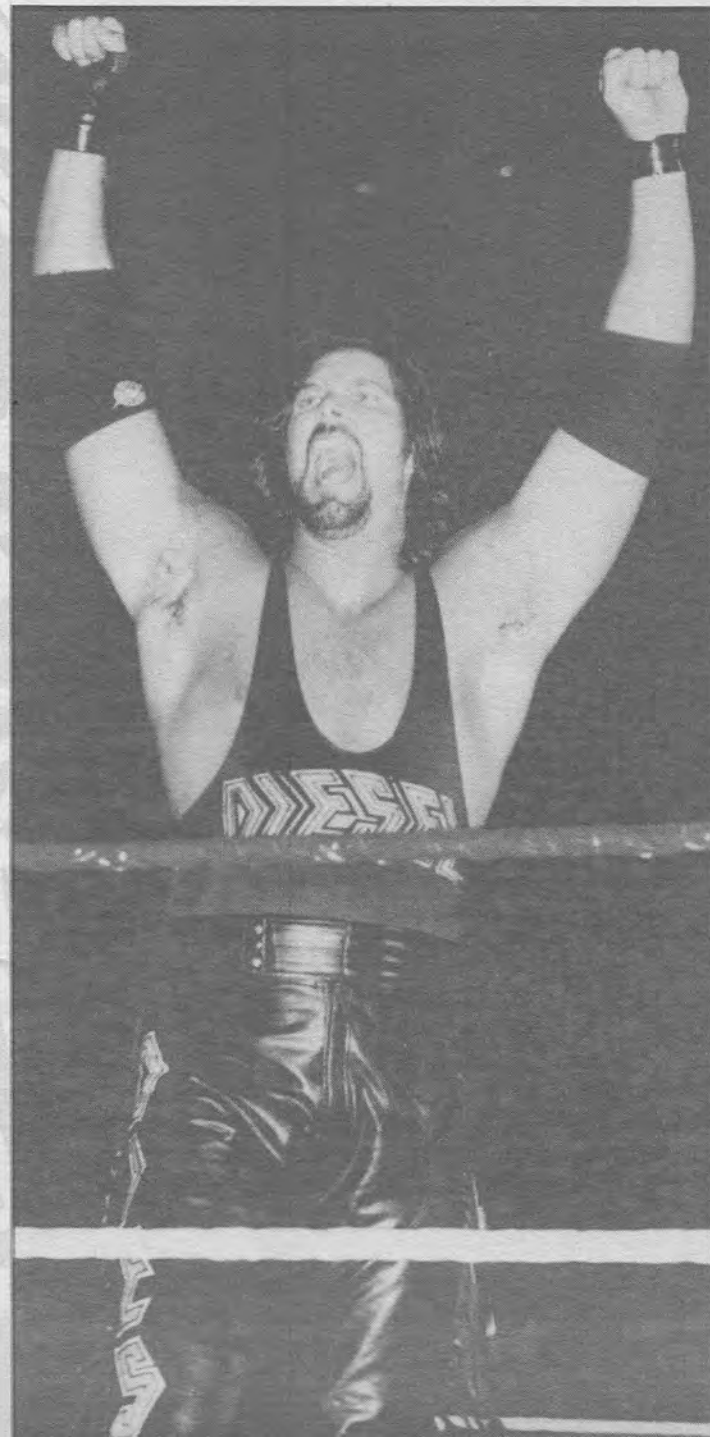
You know it's going to happen sooner or later. Probably sooner. When Diesel returns to WCW, he'll seek out Hogan, or Hogan will seek out him. Here's our take on who we think might come out on top when they meet in mid-ring

DIESEL STANDS 7' and weighs in at 356 pounds. Hulk Hogan is 6'8" and weighs in at 275 pounds. Their size makes them natural rivals. That they are both former WWF World champions who will be wrestling in WCW this summer makes a clash inevitable. The WWF announced in early-March that Diesel's last day as an employee of that federation would be June 6, 1996. It's a fair bet that WCW promoters began making plans for Diesel vs. Hogan shortly afterward. Here's a look at what promises to be the top matchup of the year:

THE COMBATANTS

Diesel, a six-year pro, was ranked number one in the 1995 "PWI 500" ... Hogan, an 18-year pro, was ranked sixth in the 1995 "PWI 500" and number one in the 1991 "PWI 500" ... Diesel held the WWF World title from November 26, 1994, through November 19, 1995, and is a former Intercontinental and World tag team champion ... Hogan held the WWF World title on five occasions: January 23, 1984, through February 5, 1988; April 2, 1989, through April 1,

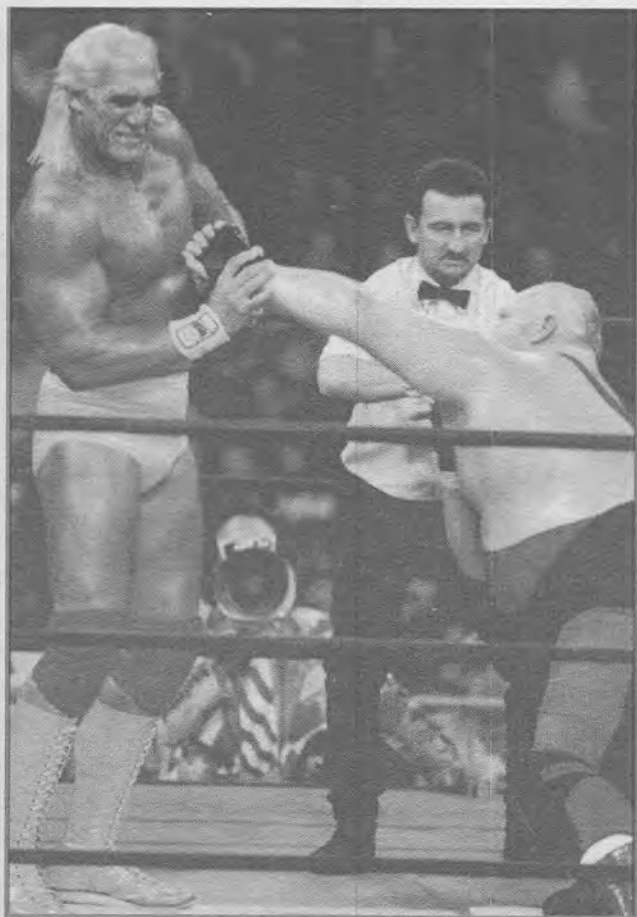
1990; March 24, 1991, through November 27, 1991; December 3, 1991, through December 4, 1991; and April 4, 1993, through June 13, 1993. He also held the WCW World title from July 17, 1994, through November 26, 1995 ... Diesel was formerly known as Vinnie Vegas and Oz ... The two men have never met in the ring ... Hogan was *PWI's* Wrestler of the Year in 1987, 1991, and 1994 ... Diesel was Wrestler of the Year in 1995.



CONDITIONING AND SPEED

Although both men are strong and muscular, neither Hogan nor Diesel is built for long matches. Diesel has had better luck in mini-marathons—those lasting just beyond the 20-minute mark—while Hogan rarely has to go that long, because he usually finishes off opponents in less than 15 minutes ... Hogan is the more impressive physical specimen, with his solid chest and huge, muscular arms that he calls “pythons” ... Diesel, though extremely strong, summons his strength from his size and bulk ... Hogan spends a considerable amount of time in the

gym ... Diesel spends a fair amount of time in the gym and carefully monitors his diet and stays in shape by limiting fat intake ... Diesel is younger than Hogan and more capable of sustaining punishment and maintaining top effort over a long period of time ... Neither man is known for his speed. Diesel is the more lumbering of the two, while Hogan tends to wrestle very well in brief bursts ... It's doubtful that Hogan vs. Diesel will come down to which man is better conditioned or faster ... Diesel is probably a little more powerful. **EDGE: CALL IT EVEN.**



When Hulk Hogan meets Diesel in the ring, he won't be able to beat him with wristlocks (above left). And a big question facing “Big Daddy Cool” will be whether he can manhandle Hulk the way he has, at times, manhandled Bret Hart (above right).

OVERALL ABILITY

Both men are brawlers with little need to display their technical wrestling skills ... Hogan proved during several trips to Japan that he has some scientific skills and is capable of matching moves with some of the best wrestlers in the world. He simply prefers not to ... Diesel has rarely shown any scientific ability, although he more than held his own in matches against scientific

geniuses Bret Hart and Shawn Michaels ... Hogan, too, has been successful against scientific masters such as Ric Flair and Ted DiBiase ... Both men rely on limited repertoires and prefer to kick and punch ... Neither man has ever exhibited any aerial ability ... Diesel is a little smarter at controlling the ring and limiting activity to a small portion of the ring, though. **EDGE: DIESEL.**

FINISHING MANEUVER

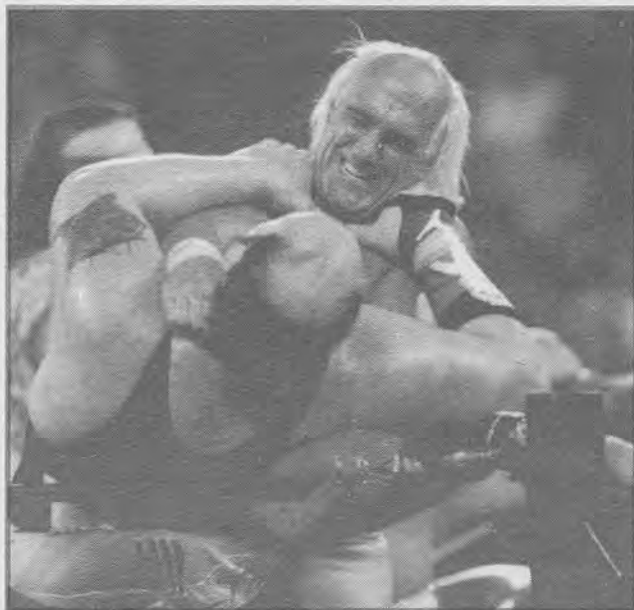
Hogan relies on a bodyslam, followed by a big boot, a legdrop, and the pin ... Diesel follows his big boot with a "jackknife" power bomb ... Diesel's finishing move is inherently better and more likely to injure and debilitate an opponent ... Hogan's finishing move is designed purely to gain an immediate victory, which it almost always does ... Opponents are never in position to rally after Diesel's "jackknife,"

while an opponent such as Diesel might be able to recover from Hogan's legdrop ... Can Hogan bodyslam Diesel? Can Diesel lift Hogan for a "jackknife"? We think both are possible ... Although Diesel's finishing move is more lethal, Hogan's is time-tested, and Hogan showed in matches against Big Van Vader last year that he can render a man's power bomb useless. **EDGE: HOGAN.**

KILLER INSTINCT

Hogan likes to make dramatic comebacks; he rarely takes the incentive in a match and usually doesn't respond with full effort until he is on the verge of defeat ... Diesel likes to go all-out from the opening bell and finish off his opponent as quickly as possible ... If that happens in Diesel vs. Hogan, the "Hulkster" might be summoned to action quicker than he hoped, forcing both men to expend tremendous

amounts of energy in the early stages of their bout. And Diesel might never give him the opportunity to make a comeback ... Both men can smell victory and go in for the kill ... Opponents are rarely successful withstanding either man's finishing assault ... Hogan, however, has been the victim of far fewer clean pin-falls than Diesel over a longer career and deserves the edge in this category. **EDGE: HOGAN.**



No question about it: The "Hulkster" (above left, choking Shark) has the killer instinct to beat the best big men. Diesel has handled powerhouses such as Davey Boy Smith (above right), but has never run into a force as powerful as "Hulkamania."

OVERALL ANALYSIS

Diesel will probably return to WCW with bad memories of his losing times as Vinnie Vegas. That's the Diesel most WCW fans remember. If he can't shake those memories, he stands little chance of beating Hogan ... Hogan, on the other hand, is supremely confident at all times and truly believes he is invincible ... Diesel's success has come in the last two years ... If

Diesel uses his size and power to control the match, he has a chance beat Hogan on even terms ... But Hogan has such an incredible record of coming through in tough matches and in difficult situations that it's hard to believe he can lose any match on fair terms ... This match is likely to come down to which wrestler has the psychological edge. **THE WINNER: HOGAN.** ☐

DALLAS PAGE

"I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS MUCH LONGER"

THE PAST FEW months have been a career and personal rollercoaster for "Diamond" Dallas Page. He began the year as the recipient of **PWI's** Most Improved Wrestler of the Year award for 1995. He was the reigning WCW TV champ and was gaining more and more respect as a wrestler. Page also had the hand of Kimberly, The Diamond Doll. But, most important to Page, he had recently won \$13-million in Las Vegas.

Page's world soon came crashing down around him. Yin became yang. Gone were the TV belt, Kimberly, and the money (which turned out never to be his in the first place, but Kimberly's), all due to stipulations in various matches with Johnny B. Badd. While Page took the losses of Kimberly and the belt

hard, he felt the emptiness most in his wallet when his cash flow stopped.

The once-wealthy Page is now relegated to "skid-row bum" status, with creditors literally hounding him as he enters the ring. He has given up the lavish lifestyle, but while the diamonds are missing from Dallas Page, his weakened spirit remains. Badd has left WCW, but not before giving Kimberly a public dressing-down over his TV title loss to Lex Luger. Now there may be a light at DDP's dark tunnel of despair. Could Kimberly be coming back to him?

Senior Writer Steve Anderson caught up with Page at his new home, a motel on the seedier side of Las Vegas. They discussed his future over a lunch of mayonnaise sandwiches and tomato soup fashioned out of ketchup and hot water.

Q: Well, Dallas, times sure have changed since I visited you last.

A: And they're gonna change again. This is a minor derailment for the "Diamond Express." It'll all come back. The money, titles, and The Diamond Doll.

Q: Has poverty changed you?

A: Poverty nothing! I'm just having my lavish Las Vegas mansion remodeled. I have to cut corners here and there.

Q: How about cutting off that cockroach over there before he steals your sandwich? And what about your creditors bothering you?

A: Hey, Dallas Page is a common name. Maybe those guys got me mixed up with another guy who's not pay-

ing his bills. The nerve of some people. You know, I can't live like this much longer.

Q: What about the preliminary wrestlers I've seen wearing your ring attire?

A: They're Dallas Page wannabes. They want to look like me. I can't stop that. I've got fans both in and outside of wrestling.

Q: Seriously now. With Johnny B. Badd out of WCW, what are

"Hey, Dallas Page is a common name. Maybe those guys got me mixed up with another guy who's not paying his bills. The nerve of some people."

your chances of winning Kimberly back?

A: First of all, Johnny B. Badd exposed himself for what he really is: a coward. He knew he couldn't hold me off, so he took off. He blamed Kimberly for his loss of the TV title. What a jerk. I never would have done that.

Q: Really, now.

A: That's right. When Kimberly was with me, I treated her like a queen. We had our misunderstandings, but Badd brainwashed her against me. It's only a matter of time before my Diamond Doll is back with me.

Q: And the money with her?

A: Money? Who needs money? Her money would only put me in a higher tax bracket than I already am.



Q: (Points to the corner of the room) So is that rat your butler?

A: Oh, that's the neighbors. Some places will let anyone in.

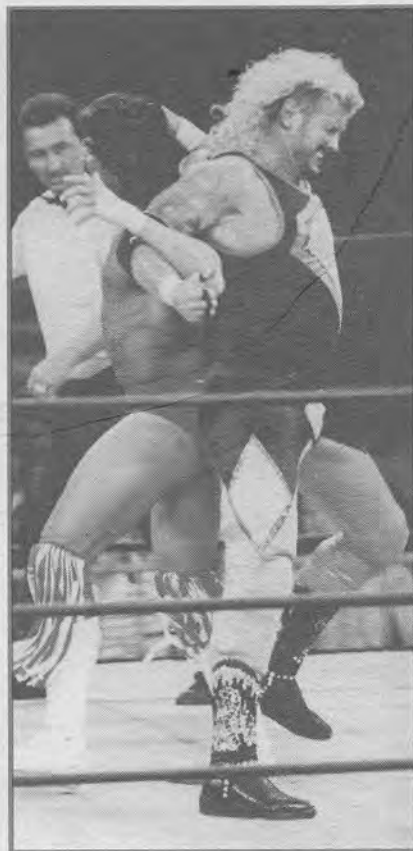
Q: Getting back to you. For the sake of argument, let's say you get it all back: Kimberly, the money, everything. What's next?

A: I'm going to the top this time. I won't stop at the TV title this time. It'll just be the first step. I want it all. I want that World title. I could beat Ric Flair, you know.

Q: Very high aspirations.

A: Not for a talent like me. Feuding with Badd only held me back from my destiny. I can see the headline now in those decrepit publications of yours: "DDP Number One In WCW."

Q: I guess we'll have to wait and



Dallas Page administered some beatings to Johnny B. Badd (above left), but he fell prey to many of Johnny B.'s attempts at pinfalls (above right) and had a hard time in that feud. Still, he claims to be the reason Badd left WCW.

"Feuding with Badd only held me back from my destiny. I can see the headline now in those decrepit publications of yours: 'DDP Number One In WCW.'"



see on that. It's a long way to the top.

A: Not when you're "Diamond" Dallas Page. By the way, do you remember that Most Improved plaque that I won?

Q: Yes.

A: How much would something like that be worth?

Q: I'm not sure.

A: You guys ever buy these things back?

Q: Why, do you need the money?

A: Of course not, you idiot. It just doesn't go with my decor. I prefer a more earthy tone. This clashes with my extravagant decorations.

Q: Then why do you want to sell it?

A: Hey, I'm just doing you a favor. This plaque will go up in value in time. They'll be auctioning it off. It will be around long after I'm gone.

Q: Uh, let me get back to you on that.

A: With your salary, pal, I doubt you could afford it. But I can negotiate.

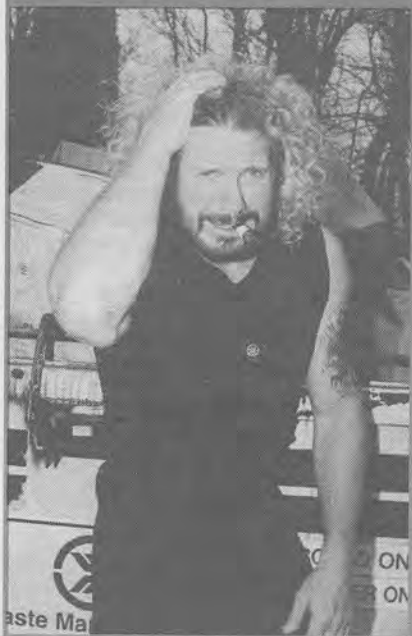
Q: Back to your career. With your recent difficulties, have you contemplated resuming your managerial career?

A: No matter what DDP does, he goes straight to the top. I managed Bad Company, the AWA tag team champions. I resurrected The Freebirds and made them NWA World tag team champions. Whatever I touch turns to gold.

Q: How will things be different if Kimberly does come back to you?

A: If? Try *when*. Besides, it wasn't all that bad as you would think. Badd started all those rumors and turned

"When Kimberly was with me, I treated her like a queen. We had our misunderstandings, but Badd brainwashed her against me."



Kimberly against me. She had it all. If she wants to come back, she knows where to find me.

Q: You mean in this dump?

A: You're a funny guy, Anderson. Keep it up. I've heard what she said in your rag. She's thinking about coming back to me. She realized Badd's a loser.

Q: If you could talk to her right now, what would you say?

A: I'd say, "Welcome back, it's about time you came back to your senses and left that loser. Now get those '10' cards together, and let's pick up where we left off, baby."

Q: That's what you'd say to win her back?

A: Okay, so I'm not as good with words as you hacks are. She can read between the lines. She knows how I

feel. I bought her more stuff than anyone.

Q: And with that \$6.6-million, you could buy even more.

A: Anderson, you think it's all about the money. In time, I'll be richer than anyone you ever knew. My stockbroker once had to leave his other clients because I kept him busy and rolling in the dough.

Q: So you're through feuding with Johnny B. Badd?

A: I'm havin' mercy on the Badd man. I beat him up enough. Besides, I settled the feud. Look who ran away like a scared rabbit. Look who stayed and is winning back the heart of Kimberly and on his way to the World title. Badd will never be the same. Hey, he didn't win an award last year, did he?

Q: No, he didn't.

A: Speaking of that award, this plaque really is taking up too much space. How about 100 bucks and it's all yours?

Q: That's okay. I'll pass.

A: I've got other offers, but suit yourself. It's not like I need the money anyway. I'll be fine.

Q: Of course. You spoke earlier of winning the World title. How would "Diamond" Dallas Page rule WCW?

A: With an iron fist, or maybe a diamond one. I would never be a multiple-time champ like Flair and Savage. I'd win the title and never let go until I hang up my expensive boots. *(Points to bowl)* You going to finish that soup?

Q: You call this soup? It tastes like ketchup water.

A: You don't know anything, Anderson. That's an expensive tomato bouillabaisse imported from France. What do you know about fine dining? Even if we were eating dirt, you should be honored to dine with a man of my stature. I'm going to carry this promotion into the next century and beyond.

Q: Well, it's been ... enlightening, Dallas. I appreciate your candor.

A: No problem. Don't bother cleaning up. We'll leave that for the maid. And, say, you're sure you don't want that beautiful plaque? I'll take 80 bucks.

Q: Forget it.

A: How about 60 bucks?

Q: No way.

A: Fine, then this interview's over, Anderson. Show yourself out. I'm not bothering the butler. □



DDP enjoyed life more with Kimberly at his side and is hoping that she will rejoin him. He claims he treated her better than Badd, though most people would disagree with that assessment.

THE



The energy-sapping struggle Luger had with Johnny B. Badd on February 17 paid off big time for Lex: He came out of it with the WCW TV title. Little did he know then that his joy would be short-lived.

Photos by Bill Apter

By Andy Rodriguez

HAD YOU BEEN in Lex Luger's locker room on the night of February 17—the night he first captured the WCW TV championship from Johnny B. Badd—you may have felt you were witnessing the re-emergence of greatness.

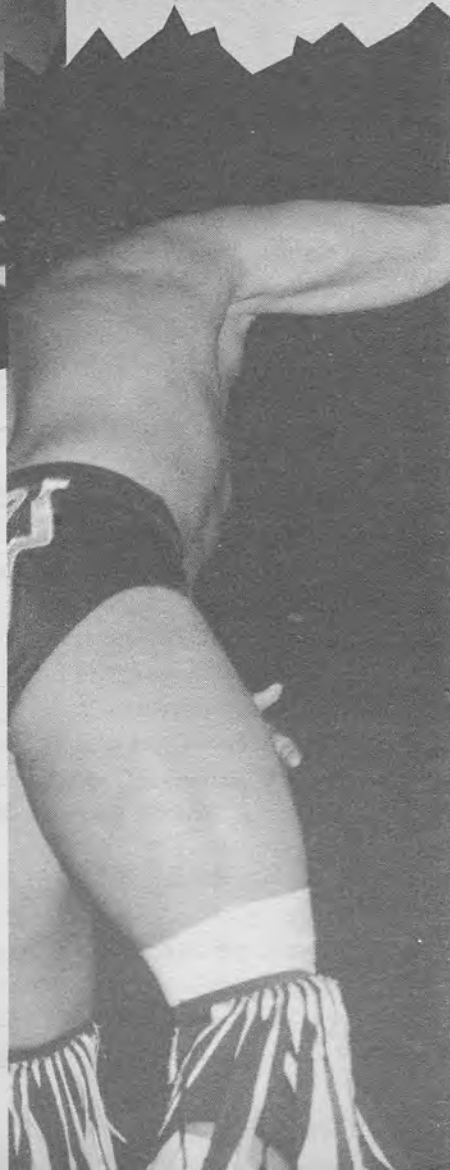
"This is the first step, gentlemen," Luger told a pack of reporters, "on the way back to the WCW World heavyweight title. It is, as they say, simply a matter of time!"

Had you been in Luger's locker room after his bout with Badd one night later, you may have felt you were witnessing something decidedly different.

"Just get out of my way!" he shouted to another group of journalists.

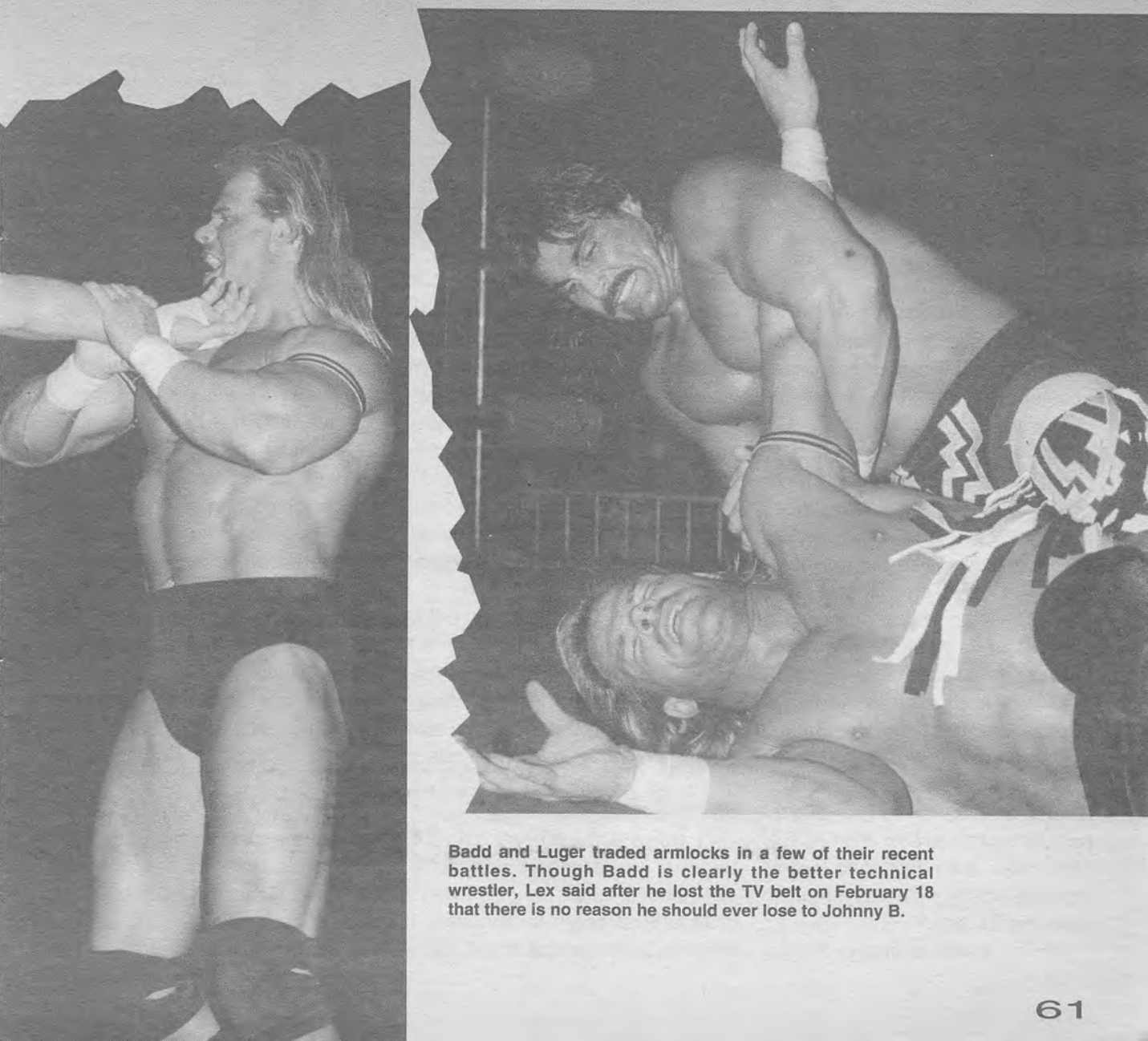
In a span of 24 hours, the former WCW World champion went from elation to depression. Just when it looked as though he was back on the fast track to singles glory, he stumbled ... badly.

"I've never seen Lex so down," WCW commentator Gene Oker-

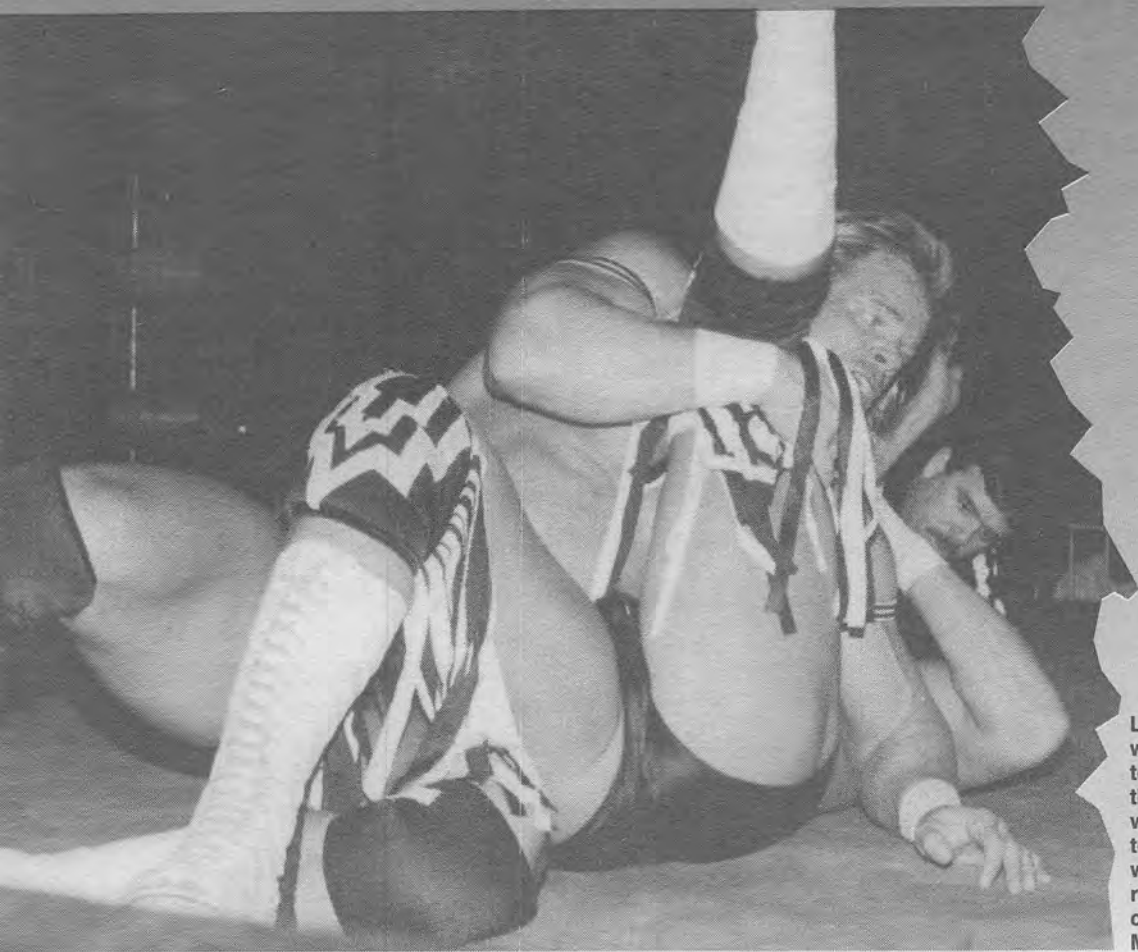


TITLE VICTORY THAT DEVASTATED LEX LUGER!

When is a win not a win? When it's followed up by a loss. Lex Luger thought his first defeat of Johnny B. Badd for the TV title was a turning point in his singles career. All it did was make him more vulnerable than ever



Badd and Luger traded armlocks in a few of their recent battles. Though Badd is clearly the better technical wrestler, Lex said after he lost the TV belt on February 18 that there is no reason he should ever lose to Johnny B.



Luger was ecstatic when he pinned Badd to win the TV belt for the first time, but it was nothing compared to the excitement he would feel when he regained the championship on March 6.

lund observed one night later. "He's always so full of confidence, always boasting about his latest accomplishments. This is not the Lex Luger I know."

Normally Luger would scoff at such a comment. He would have argued that he was feeling fine, just fine. However, Luger made little effort to disguise his true feelings. For days after the loss to Badd, he was angry, frustrated, upset. And he wanted the world to know it.

"There is absolutely no way I should lose to a guy like Badd," Luger said just hours after the loss. "Look, he's a good athlete. But I'm far superior to him; all you people in the press admit that. Man, there is no excuse to lose to him, especially a single night after I took his TV belt."

Losing a title is always tough,

but it didn't have to be that depressing for Luger. After all, he still was co-holder of the WCW World tag team title. It's just that he wanted so badly to prove that he could succeed on his own this time around in WCW. So he made a vow a few nights after the loss that he would not be remembered for his one-day reign as TV champion.

You see, Luger does care about the tag title, but he will never deny that he is one of the sport's great individualists. Sure, he was a member of The Four Horsemen, but even in that select group he felt like just a cog in a machine.

"I honestly believe," noted Luger's former Horsemen mate Arn Anderson, "that Luger *doesn't* believe in strength in numbers. I think he believes that if you can't

win something on your own, then it isn't worth having. That's why he was a terrible Horseman. He didn't have the attitude."

It wasn't, then, a matter of Luger not having the right help on the night he lost to Badd. Had his friends joined him at ringside, he would have told them to get lost. And he didn't lose because his buddy Jimmy Hart forgot to trip Badd as he bounded off the ropes, or hit Lex by mistake with a foreign object.

Luger lost on his own, and he eventually accepted that. It made the loss to Badd that much more difficult.

"You know," Sting offered the night of the loss, "I think it probably would've been better for Lex if he hadn't won the belt in the first place. I mean, it looks great on his record that he held the TV

title, but considering how hard he's taking the loss, you have to ask if it was worth it. Usually a one-day title reign is better than no reign at all, but maybe not in this case."

"I don't buy that," Luger responded quietly. "The TV title is an important belt. A lot of outstanding wrestlers have held it. Okay, maybe it's not the World championship, but it still means a lot. I felt proud to have that strap around my waist."

As he spoke, however, one sensed that he had a hard time believing what he was saying, a feeling validated by his next words.

"The problem isn't that I won it," he said. "The problem is that I didn't hold on to it! That doesn't look good—and it doesn't feel good, either."

Luger's moaning, however,

didn't last long. Less than a week after Badd beat him, he began training harder than usual. He started dropping hints to WCW matchmakers that he wanted rematches with Johnny B. In essence, he transformed his devastation into determination.

He thought back to other devastating losses. Losing the WCW World title to Sting. Coming up short in his match with then-WWF World champion Yokozuna at WrestleMania X, a bout that he lost by disqualification when he shoved guest referee Curt Hennig. All the times he lost the WCW U.S. title.

"I realized that after all those losses, I sulked a little, and it affected my performance in the ring," he recalled recently. "That wasn't going to happen this time. As bad as I felt after that loss, I wasn't going to let it affect my

wrestling. I learned from the loss, and I promised myself I would not let it happen again."

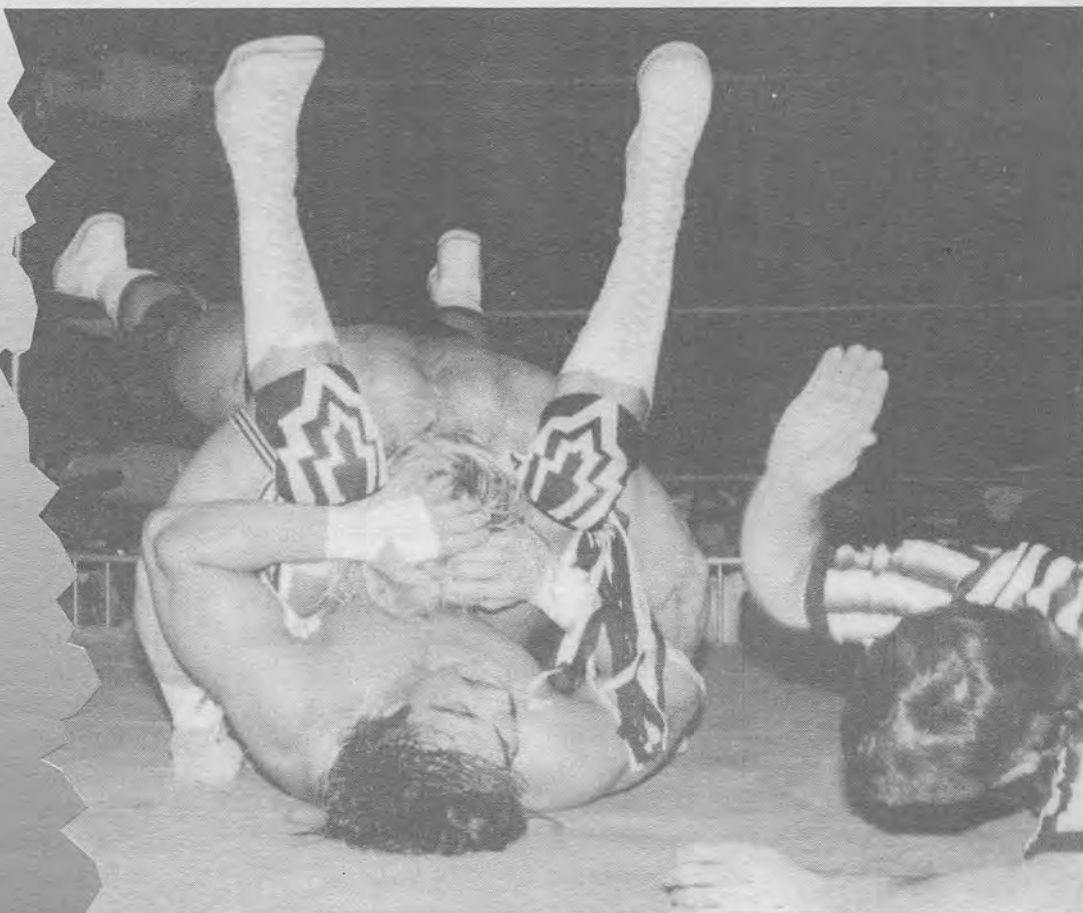
"The first thing he should do is stop moping around and acting like it's the end of the world!" Chris Benoit advised after watching Luger lose the title. "Then he should go after Badd and win back that TV belt. When he does that, he'll start feeling like a champion again, because he'll be one."

He was. On March 6 in Macon, Georgia, Luger got that rematch with Badd, and he beat him after Jimmy Hart interfered.

"This is great," he said the night of the win. "I'm back on top again. It's unbelievable. I'm on top of the world!"

The devastated Luger was gone, and the cocky, self-assured Luger was back. Everything was back to normal in WCW again. □

Lex took some shortcuts against Badd; he even tried to pin him with his feet on the ropes. Some say that because he used such underhanded tactics, he deserved to see his first reign as TV champ end after a mere 24 hours.



WHY THE WWF SENT A HITMAN AFTER

"THE HITMAN"

The WWF took action when Bret Hart refused to go along with its agenda. "The Hitman" thought he was teaming with The Undertaker against Jerry Lawler and Jeff Jarrett, but it may have been three-on-one all the way



By Dave Rosenbaum

IN WRESTLING'S NEW world order, control is key and image means a lot. Shortly after Lawrence Taylor, a broadcaster on TNT's Sunday night NFL telecasts, signed to wrestle at the WWF's WrestleMania XI last year, the Turner people (coincidentally, they insisted) gave Taylor the heave-ho. The message to Taylor seemed quite clear: You're either a Turner man or a McMahon man, not both.

The WWF has a working agreement with the USWA, but that applies primarily to the exchange of wrestlers. The WWF does not control the USWA and cannot dictate its matchmaking policies. When the USWA recently signed a match pitting Bret Hart and The Undertaker against Jeff Jarrett and Jerry Lawler, the WWF brass was not happy.

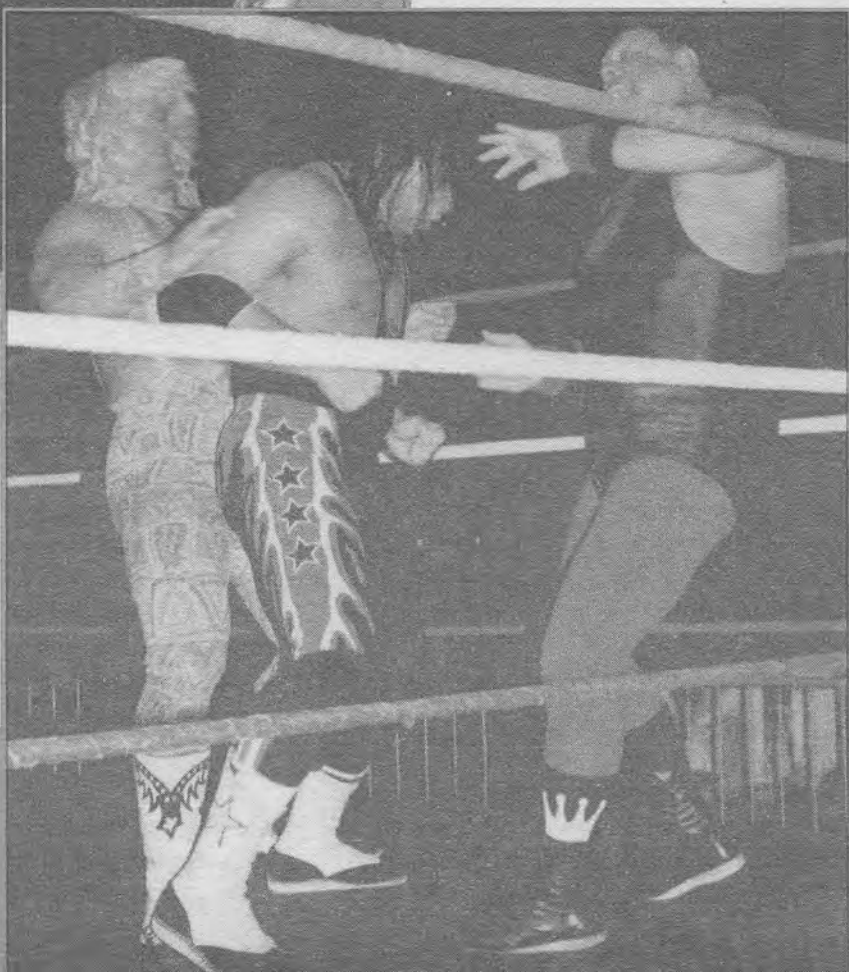
Officials told Hart that they were uncomfortable with the notion of seeing him team with a man with whom he has violently feuded.



Undertaker clamped his chokehold on Lawler a number of times in this match (opposite page, left), but he and Paul Bearer's main mission was to keep an eye on Bret (left) and, when the right time came, deliver a message.

USWA promoter explained. "Even if Bret wanted to get out of it, he would have had a hard time, because the contracts were signed and binding. The only way Bret could have gotten out of that match would have been to break his leg or something, but after word got out that the WWF wanted the match off, I don't think anything short of a doctor's note would have sufficed."

When Hart wouldn't budge, the powers turned to Paul Bearer, manager of The Undertaker. They knew that there was no way they would get Bearer and The Undertaker to cancel the match, but, according to sources from within the WWF, they appealed to their sadistic nature.

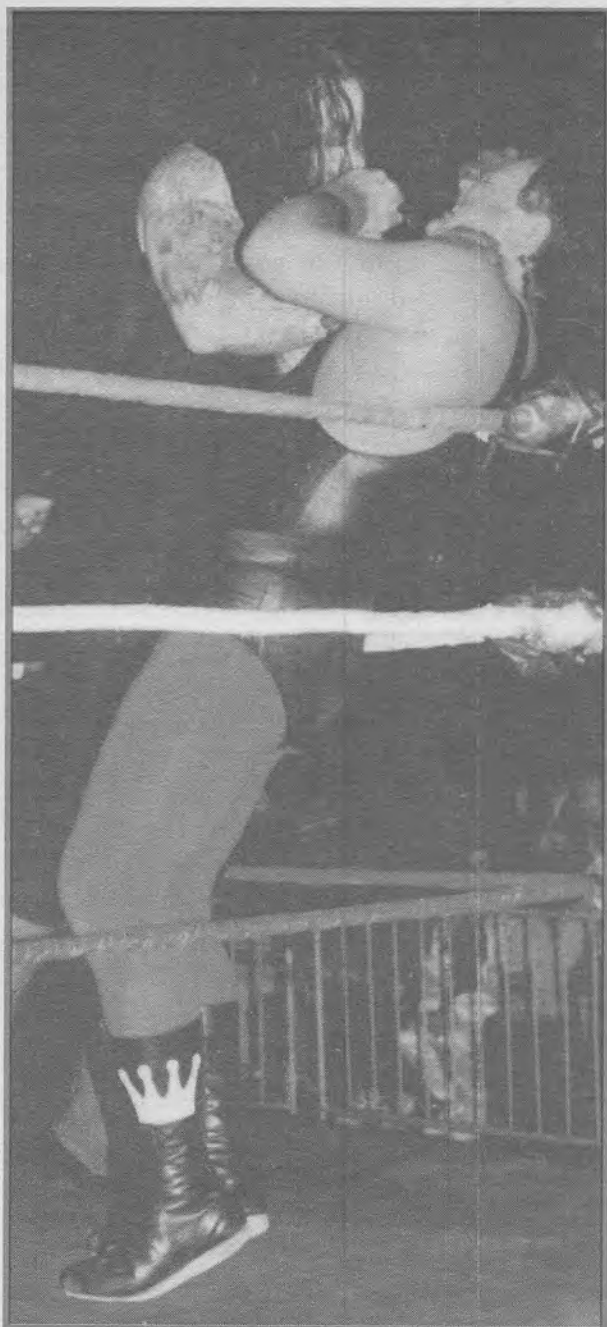


Rather than being flattered that the WWF was so concerned about his well-being, Hart stubbornly refused to back down from his decision to team with Undertaker.

"Let's just say he didn't like the way the WWF *asked* him," said a Hart associate. "He was going to do what he wanted to do."

"The match was made," a

Jarrett and Lawler's double-teaming of Hart was quite effective that night in Memphis. When Hart and Undertaker tried something similar, however, things didn't go so well.



Undertaker has never cared much for Lawler, and he let him know it in this bout (above left), but he was content to let Hart do much of the wrestling (above right). It was all part of his plan to help the WWF send a message to "The Hitman."

"Basically," our source said, "Bearer and Undertaker were given carte blanche to send a message that his little rebellion would not be tolerated."

The action-packed double-disqualification brawl contained ample evidence that Hart wasn't wrestling two men in Memphis; he was wrestling Lawler, Jarrett, The Undertaker, and the WWF. The

Undertaker made Hart do most of the fighting and sustain all of the beating. The only time Undertaker responded was when Lawler or Jarrett went after him.

"I was watching that match and thinking, *Boy, if that's Bret's idea of a tag team partner, what are his enemies like?*" said USWA star Tracey Smothers, who wrestled on the card. "The Undertaker was

basically letting Hart get pummeled, and he was in no hurry to do anything about it. Then when Bret hit Undertaker by mistake, I figured the two of them were going to go at it full-bore."

There's no doubt tensions were high between the teammates, and that Hart had a larger stake in the match. Lawler and Jarrett, in no hurry to get the bigger, stronger

Undertaker angry, concentrated their energy on Hart. But with nearly five minutes gone, Undertaker held Lawler as Hart bounded off the ropes. Lawler ducked, and Hart slammed into Undertaker.

The brawl the WWF wanted to happen would have occurred right there if Jarrett didn't take a shot at Undertaker.

"They definitely looked like they were ready to go at it," Smothers said.

But an angry Undertaker choke-slammed Jarrett and Lawler as the referee called for the bell and the double-DQ. The brawl continued. Hart battled Lawler. Undertaker whipped Jarrett into the timekeeper's table. Undertaker tossed Jarrett into the



Undertaker and Hart have had plenty of wars over the last few years. Bret probably should have known that teaming with an arch-rival would only get him in trouble. And that's exactly what it did.

hockey boards surrounding the ring ... and walked back to the dressing room.

If a picture really can say as much as a thousand words, then the scene of Jarrett and Lawler mercilessly pummeling Hart while

Hart wanted this tag team match badly because it gave him a chance to humiliate and beat Lawler again ... in "The King's" hometown. The only thing he did wrong was pick the wrong partner.

Undertaker walked carefree back to the dressing room with Bearer said it all. It was as if Undertaker suddenly realized the opportunity to achieve three aims at once: fulfill his contract to wrestle, display his independence from the WWF, and go along with the WWF's marching orders.

He did all three. Hart was the victim. The WWF's message was delivered with punch. A lot of it. □

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

IN A SPORT in which rivalries often border on the extreme, the feud between Bill Alfonso and Tod Gordon is absolutely bizarre.

Alfonso is a former referee, Gordon the current ECW president/commissioner.

But this feud has drawn the attention and captured the imagination of picky ECW fans. There's just something interesting about two raving, middle-aged men tearing into each other unmercifully with nothing at stake but pride. Alfonso vs. Gordon is a good, old-fashioned feud in which two men are motivated simply by extreme hatred for one another.

The feud has its genesis in 1995, when Alfonso was brought in to help clean up ECW. He said his job was merely to enforce the rules in the sometimes-lawless federation. ECW fans couldn't stand him, and soon he snapped!

Who knows what causes a seemingly sane man to go over the edge. On September 23 of last year, Alfonso was officiating a match between The Gangstas and Public Enemy when he suddenly hit Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge over the head with a chair. Two weeks later, Taz was the special guest referee for a match between 911 and 2 Cold Scorpio. Alfonso suddenly walked to ringside and argued with Taz for no good reason. He was attacked from behind by Gordon.

The feud was underway. On November 18, Alfonso wrestled Gordon for the first time. Taz, who was serving as special guest referee, shocked everyone by attacking Gordon and allowing Alfonso to win the match.

Alfonso then became Taz' manag-

er, and Gordon became Alfonso's arch-rival. Alfonso also got Gordon's promoting license suspended at one point. They've had a few matches in the last few months, with Alfonso always winning because of Taz' interference. More frequently, Alfonso interferes in Taz' matches.

It's one of those feuds backed by no logic. Very little was cleared up when we brought Alfonso and Gordon together ... "One On One."

TOD GORDON: Hey, Fonzi, where's your bodyguard?

BILL ALFONSO: Don't you call me that name. My name is Bill Alfonso, and it's about time you started treating me with some respect. And I don't need a bodyguard, Mister Promoter. Care to step into the ring right now?

ONE ON ONE



"I'm the man who had your license taken away, and I could do it again. I'm your worst enemy. You can't do anything to me, because if you did, I'd sue you for harassment"

—Bill Alfonso

TG: Right now? Without Taz? You name the place, and I'll be there ASAP. That would be my pleasure, Fonzi. I'd love to have the pleasure of slapping your face and smashing it with a chair without that maniac of yours getting in the way.

BA: Bill Alfonso doesn't need Taz to help him. Bill Alfonso doesn't need anyone, and if I was you, Tod Gordon, I'd keep my mouth shut about slapping faces and hitting people with chairs. I haven't seen you win any matches lately, but you still act like you're a tough man.

TG: I haven't won any matches because I'm not a wrestler, and neither are you. You looked lost in the ring against me, and you had to get Taz to help you out. I'm still the ECW commissioner, Fonzi, and I have a mind to run you right out of here ...

N ONE



"When are you going to stand up and fight like a man? At some point, you're gonna have to do it, because if you don't, I have plenty of people who want to be on my side"

—Tod Gordon

BA: But the courts won't let you. You seem to be forgetting one important fact, Gordon: I have a contract. I have a manager's license. Bill Alfonso has every right to be here!

TG: Yeah, well contracts were made to be broken, Alfonso. You seem to be forgetting that you were brought in here as a referee. You were supposed to stick to that, and if I wanted to get rid of you, I'd find a way. But that would be too easy.

BA: Easier than what, kicking my butt? Face it, Gordon. You ain't got the guts to kick my butt. You ain't got the guts, and even if you did, you couldn't do it anyway ...

TG: Yeah, because Taz is always getting in the way. That's another man I'm gonna take care of in the near future. You're on borrowed time, Fonzi, whether you like it or not.

You're mine. I control your future.

BA: You control my future? You don't control anything, Gordon. Remember me? I'm the man who had your license taken away, and I could do it again. I'm your worst enemy. You can't do anything to me, because if you did, I'd sue you for harassment, so how's that? You're a whining idiot who doesn't know what to do about me, so you keep making believe you have power. Well, I'll tell you something, Gordon: You have no power. That makes you powerless!

TG: Beautiful, just beautiful. You don't worry me. If worse comes to worst, I can just make a living selling those "Fonzi Must Die" T-shirts. There's quite a market for those babies. Our great fans are buying them up like crazy.

BA: You mean those idiots. You ...

TG: You're forgetting one more important thing: You're talking to the ECW commissioner, and my duties allow me to act in the best interests of ECW ...

BA: Yeah, that's what you must have been doing when you came to the ring and got attacked by Taz a while back ...

TG: Which time? Which time, Alfonso? When are you going to stand up and fight like a man? At some point, you're gonna have to do it, because if you don't, I have plenty of people who want to be on my side.

BA: Yeah, like who?

TG: Bam Bam Bigelow, for one. And the others, well, that's not for you to know, Fonzi. Just remember: When the time comes, I have my secret weapons.

BA: Yeah, well the time has come, Re-Tod, in case you haven't noticed. You're getting your butt kicked on a regular basis, and that's got to be pretty embarrassing, if you ask me. You blame it on Taz? Well, go ahead and fight fire with fire, Gordon. I dare you. The time has come. You better draw every weapon you've got. Bam Bam Bigelow's not gonna get it done for you. I'll put Taz up against anybody you have.

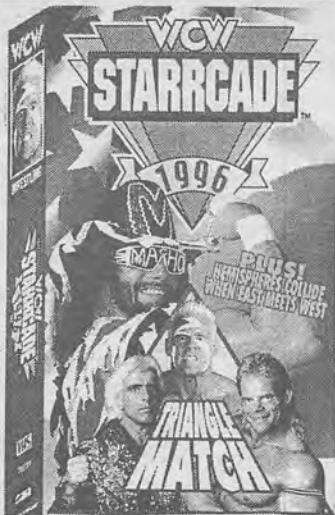
TG: I've got better things to do than waste my time with you and the crap that comes out of your mouth. You seem to forget that I have a federation to run ...

BA: Yeah, and you're doing a heckuva job ...

TG: Enough, Fonzi. You're only one of many problems that I'll deal with when the time is right. Until then, you can take this warning and do what you want with it: I have the power. If I want to hold it over your head, I will.

BA: Tod Gordon, I'll tell you what you can do with your warning. You can stick it, because Bill Alfonso is not easily intimidated. Bill Alfonso is not afraid of you or anyone! Bill Alfonso is a man!

TG: If you're a man, you prove it to me in the ring next time. Fight me one-on-one. Then we'll see who's doing all the big talking. □



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(Continued from page 5)

from their 15 minutes of fame?

I just don't want to think who could possibly be back next. The Missing Link, maybe? The Mongolian Stomper? Honky Tonk Man? Please, it's bad enough that we have Jeff Jarrett trying to be a country singer. We don't need to see HTM make his return.

Why won't these older stars give way to the younger talent that is trying to make it big? It seems to me that the older generation is unwilling to give the new guys a chance to be in the spotlight, even though the fans are clamoring for it. I just think it's a shame that guys like Savio Vega, Eddy Guerrero, Sabu, and Dean Malenko must be forced to wrestle in preliminary or mid-card bouts just so the older guys can steal the glory.

Come on, guys. It's 14:59, and your last second of fame is going fast. It's time to give the new breed a chance.

MARIE ARCH
Mansfield, OH

CONTINUE WOMEN'S TITLE

was shocked to learn that Alundra "Madusa" Blayze threw the WWF World women's belt in a

trash can on an edition of *WCW Monday Nitro*, but I was even more shocked when I picked up the April 1996 issue of *INSIDE WRESTLING* and found the title no longer listed in "Roll Call Of Champions." Just because the WWF lost its women's champion, it doesn't mean the federation should end its female division.

The WWF could have easily created a new championship belt to replace the one Blayze desecrated. A tournament for the title could have been held at *WrestleMania XII*, and top female wrestlers from around the world such as Aja Kong, Reggie Bennett, Bambi, Magnificent Mimi, and Kyoko Inoue could have been invited to compete.

What's even more shocking is that the incident happened so soon after the thrilling women's elimination match at the *Survivor Series*, which left plenty of fans like me hoping that the WWF would sign more women's matches. An entire wrestling federation should not let one athlete's actions influence the future of women's competition.

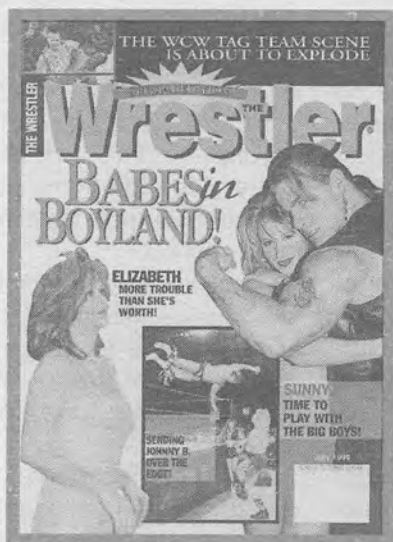
STEVE WALLS
Stoneham, MA ☐



Alundra "Madusa" Blayze (shown against Candi Devine) threw the WWF women's belt in the trash on *WCW Monday Nitro* last December; reader Steve Wallis is upset that the WWF has discontinued its women's division.

This Month In...

THE **Wrestler**

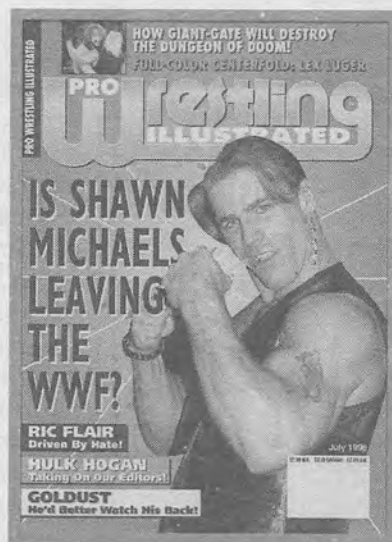


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On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

main TV taping sites, and there are plenty of small independents. But it's not the same to Harry Jacobs and wrestling fans like him.

"They're visitors now," Jacobs complained. "They come for a night or so, then they pick up and leave. Nobody sets their roots in Florida anymore. It's like with the tourists, the big federations come here on vacation, but there's no commitment. I thought maybe ECW would maybe settle down here, kind of like a second home, but that hasn't happened."

No more than 10 years ago, Florida wrestling was a logical steppingstone to worldwide stardom. Now the route usually goes through the USWA and ECW.

Is that good or bad? In all honesty, it doesn't matter to most wrestling fans, who get their fill of the sport on cable and pay-per-view TV. But it matters plenty to men like ol' Harry Jacobs, who used to schedule his life around wrestling cards and got the biggest thrill out of watching a wrestler's career from start to finish. Other

things, too. Jacobs recalled the night the lights went out in Lakeland.

"It was Sir Oliver Humperdink's fault," Jacobs said. "He was always doing things like that. His man is losing, suddenly the lights go out, and everybody's screaming and panicking. I was just standing there laughing. Thought it was the funniest thing. There goes ol' Humperdink dipping into his bag of tricks. Then the lights go on and wouldn't you know it, Humperdink's man is on top."

"You know, those things just don't happen anymore. A manager being able to turn off all the lights in a building? Can you imagine that happening in Orlando Arena?"

No, but as Harry and I steered off Alligator Alley west of Fort Lauderdale and drove onto I-495, I saw the brights lights of Fort Lauderdale and felt like I had just traveled through time. For Harry, the trip was fine. The destination just wasn't what he'd like it to be. □



Many of the epic battles Dory Funk Jr. had with Jack Brisco in the NWA in the early-1970s were contested in Florida. Nowadays, the major federations only occasionally run big shows in that state.

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Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)

ting ahead of myself. Maybe the Warriors and Steiners don't yet look like the teams of old because they're still working their way into top form.

"Give them a few months," suggested a WCW insider. "Every athlete knows that training and actually wrestling are two completely different things. The Warriors and Steiners are getting their feel for the ring back. I have no doubt that we're about to see that old energy and excitement soon."

Others aren't so sure. Rocco Rock quipped, "What's the big deal?" after watching the Steiners wrestle the Warriors on *Monday Nitro*.

"So these are the big, tough Road Warriors?" his partner, Johnny Grunge, quipped. "They're pretty good, but I ain't afraid. I betcha even The Nasty Girls ain't afraid."

So far, there's been no reason for the other WCW tag teams to panic. On the contrary, the unscheduled Warriors vs. Steiners match on *Nitro* on March 11, which should have been one of the biggest matches of the year, was good and exciting, but hardly spectacular. Even a few wrestlers to whom I talked said they thought the match lacked something, that both the Steiners and Warriors looked just a bit tentative.

The Warriors, of course, pretended to no such modesty and Hawk growled, "The Legion of Doom is back!"

They still have to prove that to me.

And while we're on the subject of wrestlers who had their best days in the 1980s, Jimmy Snuka waited 14 years, but he finally got a decisive pinfall victory over Bob Backlund. Problem was, it occurred on a Trans

World Wrestling Federation card back in Northampton, Pennsylvania, back in February, and there was no title at stake.

If you recall, one of the last times we saw Snuka vs. Backlund, Snuka was flying off the top of a 15-foot steel cage in Madison Square Garden, majestic in form and grace, and ready to land on top of a prone Backlund's chest. The WWF World title was just a pinpoint landing away. Then Backlund rolled out of the way, and Snuka made his pinpoint landing on the canvas. Backlund walked out of the ring with his belt.

How wrestling history would have changed if Backlund didn't budge! Snuka was a good enough wrestler to hold on to the belt—especially when protected by the rule that keeps titles from changing hands on disqualifications—and might have been able to hold off all challengers, including The Iron Sheik. Maybe Hulk Hogan wouldn't have won the World title from Snuka, or maybe it would have taken him longer to do so. We'll never know. A split-second kept us from knowing.

It's important to note that the Snuka-Backlund 1996 rematch took place in a regular ring with no steel cage. We might once again see Snuka vs. Backlund in a cage, but it's doubtful that Snuka would dare attempt his "Superfly" leap again so many years later.

Snuka never won a world title, and Backlund

held the WWF belt again for three days in 1994. The wrestling world has changed dramatically. On the night Snuka missed his leap into history, Madison Square Garden was packed to the rafters with screaming fans. But the WWF no longer holds all its biggest cards at Madison Square Garden, which long ago stopped being the wrestling mecca of the world. Now the wrestling mecca is your TV set. Arenas have become studios for Monday night TV shows and pay-per-view events.

In other words, Snuka, your victory was much too little, much too late. □



Jimmy Snuka finally got a pinfall win over Bob Backlund in 1996, 14 years after they feuded in the WWF. Rosenbaum wonders how wrestling history would have changed if Snuka had beaten him for the WWF belt in 1982.

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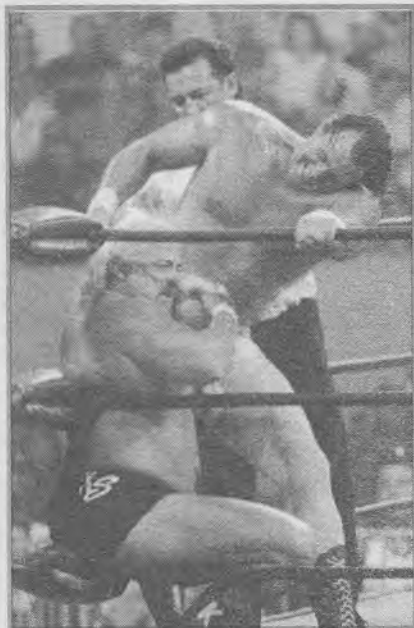
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The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



Trivia question: What name was this man using when he battled Kevin Sullivan at Slamboree '95? You can't remember? Me, neither. Let's just hope he turns against Hogan again soon.

Seemed Diesel was getting jealous of all the attention Michaels was getting. I think he ought to be careful about who he alienates. You never know when you might have to come back.

NEWS ITEM: The Booty Man (a.k.a. Brutus Beefcake, The Barber, The Butcher, The Man With No Name, and Zodiac—have we forgotten any?) takes WCW by storm and is welcomed back with open arms by his old buddy/enemy Hulk Hogan.

How in the world could anyone ever trust a man who can't settle on a name for more than a month or two at a time? Wasn't it just last summer that old what's-his-name begged Hogan for forgiveness and got turned down flatly? And wasn't it about 18 months ago that Brutus the Butchering Zodiac was

telling everyone that he had been waiting for years for the day when he could stab his childhood friend in the back?

What happened, guys? Why are we suddenly so chummy again? Think about it: How stupid will Hogan feel if the new Beefcake turns out to be just like the old Beefcake? What if three months from now, Booty Man turns against Hogan again and says joining camp Hogan was just part of his master master master plan to destroy "Hulkamania"? Pray, dear readers, that it happens, because if it does happen, it will only prove what I have known all along—that Hulk Hogan is the stupidest wrestler around today.

NEWS ITEM: Anyone got a quarter?

Disco Inferno, a bumbling fatbody, boogies to the ring as if suffering from *Saturday Night Fever*. Public Enemy storms to work in an avalanche of rap. Going back to the days of The Freebirds and their Badstreet Band to Honky Tonk Man's unendurable guitar riffs and Jeff Jarrett's annoying country tunes, music has remained a tone-deaf cornerstone of professional wrestling for years.

The time has come, then, for jukebox wrestling. Fans could choose from a selection of hit songs wired into their seats the most appropri-

ate tune to play at different sections of the match. This would elevate the mood, create a more participatory atmosphere, and relieve us of the torment of listening to wrestlers under the misguided impression they can make music.

You feel your favorite needs a little reggae-based inspiration to get out of that headlock? How about punching in Bob Marley's "Get Up, Stand Up"? You women can't stand it when Diesel tears off his vest? Give voice to your passion with, how about, Right Said Fred's "I'm Too Sexy"?

Think of the potential source of revenue for promoters. □



Just because John Travolta's career is happening doesn't mean we should all come down with terminal *Saturday Night Fever*. Got that, Fatbody?

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On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)

recently recalled, "because when I wasn't great, I was lucky, and when my luck ran out, I got real good."

In her best year, Moolah made as much money as the average middle-of-the-pack male wrestler. "The money just wasn't there," she said. "We wrestled because we loved the competition. Promoters could rely on us. Fans supported us. We were a very tight group. A lot of us traveled and ate meals together, except on the nights of matches. I wouldn't socialize on those nights. That was my rule. No distractions."

Moolah was the consummate professional, a champion for nearly three decades. How would she stack up against today's competition? "I don't mean to boast, but I've never met a woman I couldn't handle," she said. "I watch them today. They're big and strong and fast, but I know they couldn't handle me in my prime."

Two weeks before my lecture, I was in Georgia for a WCW TV taping, and I ran into Col. Robert Parker.

"I'm gonna bash her head but good," he told me. "Teach her a lesson she won't soon forget. I'm doing this for all the hen-pecked, bothered little men in the world. They can live vicariously through me."

And with those words, Col. Parker established the strategy he intended to use in his Uncensored match against Madusa.

"If Madusa hadn't come to WCW, I'd be a happily married man right now," Parker crowed. "Sister Sherri and I would still be on our honeymoon. But no, she has to go and humiliate me. Then she smacks me in the face on national TV when I'm not ready and challenges me to a match.



Moolah and Alundra "Madusa" Blayze had a good time together last year when Moolah was inducted in the WWF Hall of Fame, but when Moolah sees Madusa feuding with Col. Parker, she isn't happy.

That little filly has overstepped her bounds."

One can only imagine the domestic scenario that would comprise a "happy marriage" for a man like Parker. I'm thinking that Sherri Martel is one of the luckiest women alive. I'm also thinking that this is how women's wrestling has evolved—into a cartoonish caricature of its former glory days. Where once there was an established circuit of professionals, there now exists a bunch of independent diehards out for fame and glory however they can get it.

"I was offered the biggest purses of my career to wrestle men," Moolah recalled. "I didn't think it was appropriate. Even if I could compete, it would have destroyed our circuit. The best women's tennis player or golfer doesn't join the men's tour. Nowadays a girl would rather be a man's valet than be a wrestler in her own right. It's a disgrace."

I re-examined the list of ques-

tions. How have women improved physically? Like Moolah said, they're bigger, faster, and stronger. But that's more of a reflection of across-the-board training and nutritional advances than anything having to do specifically with women wrestlers.

Is there a single event that altered public perception? I had intended to use WrestleMania I and the hoopla generated by Wendi Richter as an example of how women's wrestling burst into national consciousness. But unlike, for example, the Billie Jean King vs. Bobby Riggs Battle of the Sexes tennis match that spawned a new awareness for women athletes, WrestleMania I was like a comet crashing to Earth: a big boom followed by a lot of nothing.

As for question number three—where I saw women's wrestling headed in the next 10 years—I thought of Madusa and Sherri Martel battling it out on TV over a cretin like Col. Parker.

And then I canceled my lecture □

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[NOTE: Cover stories noted in boldface.]

February 1988/CENTERFOLD: Ronnie Garvin. **Savage & Elizabeth**, Garvin, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steiner. **Randy Savage**, Ted Turner, Richter, Paul E., Powers of Pain.

December 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **New WWF Blood**, Four Horsemen, Kerry, Doom, Gilbert, Slaughter.

January 1991/CENTERFOLD: Kerry Von Erich. **WWF vs. NWA**, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri & Warrior.

February 1991/CENTERFOLD: 1991 calendar. **WrestleMania**, Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Steiner, Power & Glory.



May 1991/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hulk Hogan**, Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/CENTERFOLD: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, Cactus, Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiner.

January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam**, Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

February 1993/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. **Ramon**, Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

April 1993/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. **Steiners**, Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.

November 1993/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report**, Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.

January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink**, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.

May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger**, Flair-Vader, Heenan, **WrestleMania** retrospective.

July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon**, Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.

August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. **Bret Hart/WrestleMania X**, Steiners, Albano, steroid trial.

November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan in WCW**, Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

Winter 1994/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. **Hulkamania Wild Again**, McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.

January 1995/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Tatanka**, Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.

February 1995/CENTERFOLD: Johnny B. Badd. **WCW Civil War**, Pillman & Austin, Abdullah, Bret Hart.

April 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sabu. **WWF Title Turmoil**, Hogan, Cornette, Diesel, Alundra, Rhodes.

May 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Diesel**, Savage, Sabu, Hogan-Beefcake, Vader, Owen Hart.

July 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bam Bam Bigelow. **Hulk Hogan**, Sullivan, USWA blood, Yokozuna, revitalize the WWF.

August 1995/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **Women in Wrestling**, Rottens, Sting-Hogan, Road Warriors.

October 1995/CENTERFOLD: Harlem Heat. **Razor Ramon**, ideal WWF champ, Flair, Savage, Orndorff.

November 1995/CENTERFOLD: Hulk Hogan. **Summerslam**, Vader, Michaels, Backlund, North Korea, ECW rules.



December 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bodydonnas. **Diesel-Mabel**, Sting, Yokozuna, Savio, Regal-Eaton, Lawler-LeDuc.

January 1996/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **WWF vs. WCW**, Diesel & Shawn, Luger, Summerslam.

February 1996/CENTERFOLD: Shawn Michaels. **Randy Savage**, Hogan, Gangstas-Public Enemy, Austin.

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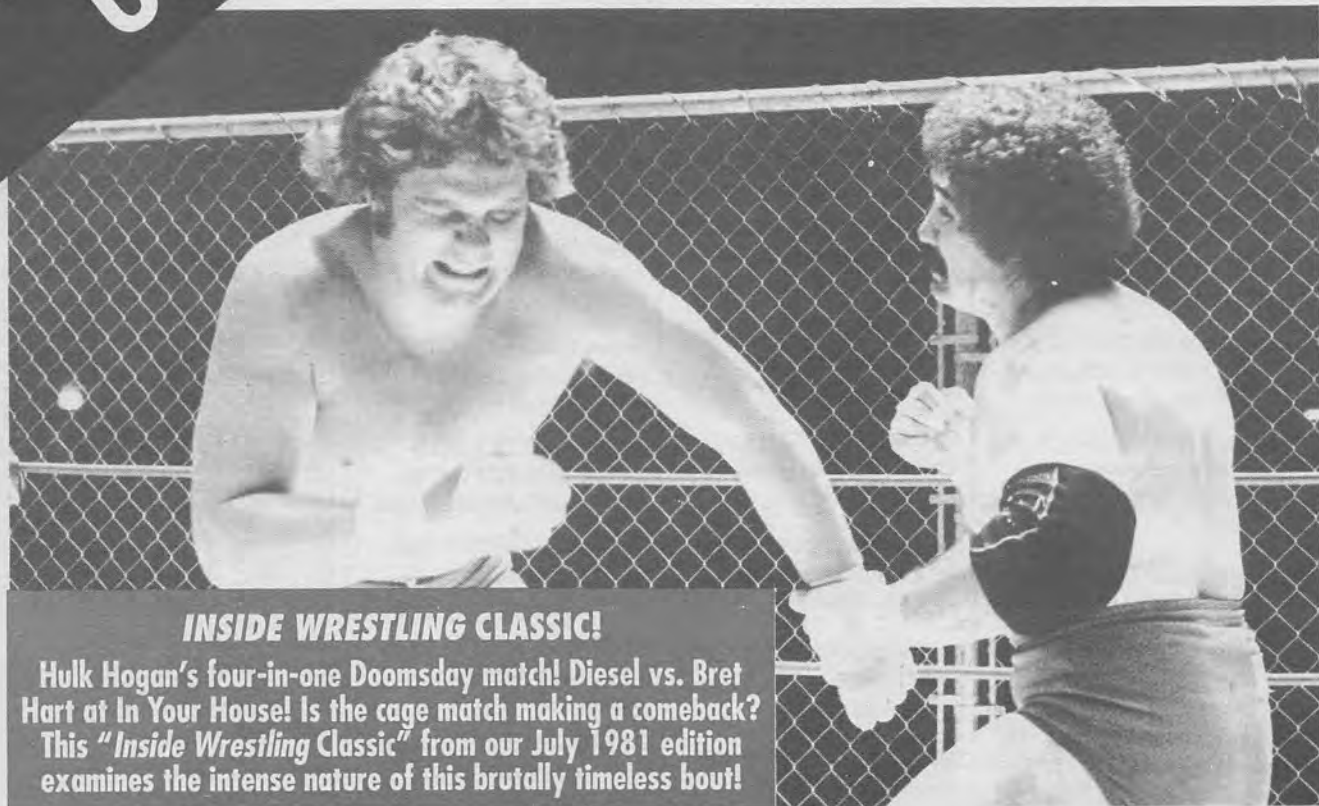
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SLATER & FERNANDEZ—



INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC!

Hulk Hogan's four-in-one Doomsday match! Diesel vs. Bret Hart at In Your House! Is the cage match making a comeback? This "Inside Wrestling Classic" from our July 1981 edition examines the intense nature of this brutally timeless bout!

LOCKED IN A CAGE!

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

THEY WERE LOCKED in a steel cage. This match is the most insidious form of wrestling combat imaginable. Every possible aspect of a man's courage, skills, and character is tested in this unnerving, potentially catastrophic encounter.

"I ain't worried," declared

Slater in typical pre-match bravado.

"Well, I have confidence in myself and I think Mr. Slater's in for a rude awakening," said Manny Fernandez prior to this match.

Neither man could anticipate the depths of jungle brutality they were soon to stoop to.

Neither could possibly foresee the intense savagery, the hunger for another man's very soul which would quickly engulf them and transport both men into another dimension.

This dimension loses all touch with any known earthly reality. In it, all rules are suspended. Anything goes.

They were locked into the ultimate test of a man's courage. Surrounded by steel, Manny Fernandez and Dick Slater battled through each other for victory. There could be no retreat, no cowardice. This match would show who was the better man. And who would be the unmoving body

Even the simplest form of human kindness is replaced by barbarism. They wish to destroy each other. And that transforms a man.

"Worried, why should I worry?" said Slater. "He's a

punk. I'll annihilate him."

Slater was recently stripped of his Southern title for failure to consistently defend it. Later Sweet Brown Sugar won the title in an elimination match against Masked Assassin #1.

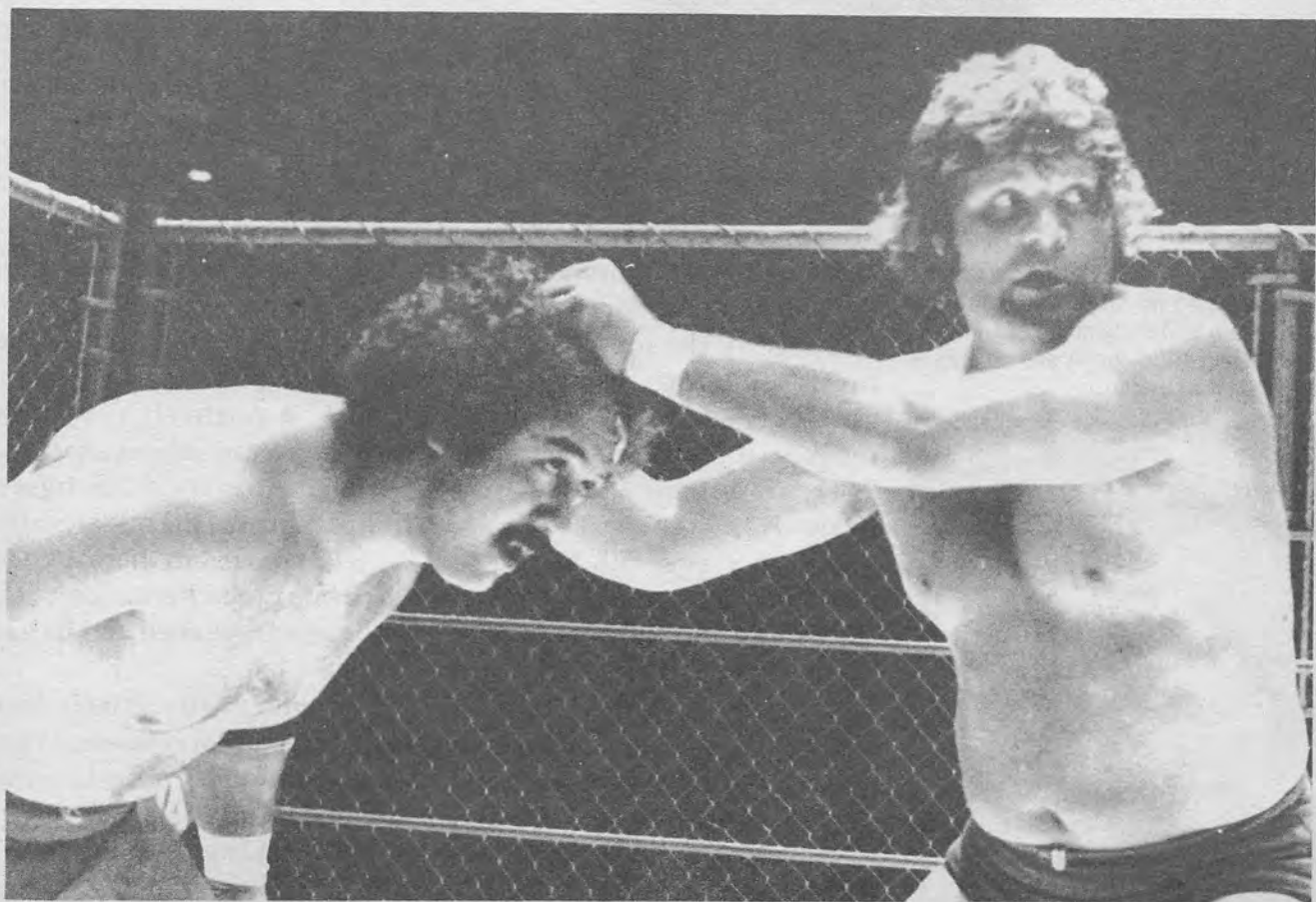
Fernandez recently returned to Florida, intent on rising back to the top.

"This is a very important match for me," said Fernandez. "And that's why I took it. I knew my abilities would be pushed to the limit. I wanted to prove to everyone that Manny Fernandez has what it takes to be champion."

His words echoed that of other young wrestlers determined to demonstrate their courage in this horrific steel cage match. Some have survived. Some have not. Fernandez was one of the lucky ones.

They lashed out at each other with everything they had. But

Early in the match, it seemed like a typical wrestling bout, as Fernandez applies a reverse hammerlock (left). Eventually, however, the brutality of the Cage Match surfaced. Slater grabs Fernandez by the hair and drives him headfirst into the cage (below).





Seemingly beaten (above), Fernandez somehow found the strength to continue when he saw Slater claim victory. Manny backs Slater into a corner and mounts a vicious attack (below).



even that wasn't enough. They drew deep upon their resources to conceive the most brutal of tactics. Even Fernandez, considered a gentleman, realized it had to reach new levels of brutality if he were to survive.

"No nice guy with Slater, or he'll kill you," said Fernandez.

Midway through the match, both men battered and exhausted beyond human endurance, Slater tried to escape. But Fernandez, sensing the kill, leaped after Slater and wrenched him back down in the cage.

"He wouldn't get away from me," declared Fernandez.

No, Slater couldn't escape. He attempted a figure-four leglock, a relatively new move for the veteran rulebreaker. But Fernandez reversed the figure-four, taking the life out of Slater.

"Right then and there, I knew I had him," said Fernandez. "He was plum frightened and he had no heart left."

Fernandez won. Slater lost. But the question remains: What deep, profound effects were inflicted upon these two men?

The steel cage. It always wins. □

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Inside Wrestling

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November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers-Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.
May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.
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September 1989/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes.
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December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.

January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Oris.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.
July 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Virgil, Nastys, Steiners, Spivey.
September 1991/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Hyatt, Rude, Hennig.
October 1991/Stories include: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Luger.

November 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Flair, War Games.
January 1992/Stories include: Sting, Freebirds, Hart, Rhodes, Rotundo.
May 1992/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man.
June 1992/Stories include: Sting, Hogan, Race, Bagwell, Atlas.
August 1992/Stories include: Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD.
September 1992/Stories include: War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala.
November 1992/Stories include: Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule.
March 1993/Stories include: Michaels, Koloff, Windham-Rhodes.
June 1993/Stories include: Dink, Vader-Sting, Hart, Steiners, Lawler.
July 1993/Stories include: Bravo, Gonzales, Bulldog, Ramon, Arn.
August 1993/Stories include: Hogan-Yokozuna, Hart, Christopher.
September 1993/Stories include: Steiners, Slamboree, Ramon, Sting & Smith.
October 1993/Stories include: SummerSlam, Money Inc., Vader-Vicious.
November 1993/Stories include: Bodies, Jannetty, Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger.
December 1993/Stories include: Fytch, Austin, Luger, Yokozuna, Sting & Flair.
February 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, Dink, Blonds, holiday wishes.
March 1994/Stories include: Nastys, Parker, Barga, 1994 predictions.
May 1994/Stories include: Flair-Rude, Hart, Luger, Morton, Heenan.

June 1994/Stories include: Steamboat, Snuka, Anthony, Bruises, Blayze.
August 1994/Stories include: Piper, Hogan, 911, Freebirds, rulebreakers.
September 1994/Stories include: Nastys, Undertaker, Flair-Steamboat.
November 1994/Stories include: DiBiase, Sting, Diesel, Cactus-Sabu.
December 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Bret, Rottens, Cactus, AAA midgets.
January 1995/Stories include: Vader, Diesel & Razor, Hart, Luger, Sabu.
February 1995/Stories include: Sting, McMahon-Lawler, Woman, Brutus-Hogan.
March 1995/Stories include: Nastys, Ramon, Tasmaniac, 1995 predictions.
May 1995/Stories include: Michaels, Mabel, Diesel, Undertaker, Hogan.
June 1995/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Austin, Gangstas, Public Enemy.
August 1995/Stories include: Badd, Bigelow, Studd, Bubba-Sting.
September 1995/Stories include: Vicious, Flair-Hogan, Severn, Mabel.
November 1995/Stories include: Hogan, Wright, Tatanka, Backlund-Clinton.
December 1995/Stories include: Undertaker, Vader, Renegade, Gangstas-PE.
January 1996/Stories include: Norton, Vicious, Psicosis-Misterio.
February 1996/Stories include: 1996 predictions, Goldust, Sherri-Parker.
April 1996/Stories include: Diesel, Kid, Savage-Sting-Luger-Hogan.
May 1996/Stories include: Austin, Public Enemy, Vader, Sasaki, weirdness.

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OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—SHAWN MICHAELS

(5) WWF World champion

2—STING

(9) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

3—THE UNDERTAKER

(3) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

4—BRET HART

(1) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

5—KONNAN

(12) U.S. heavyweight champion

6—RIC FLAIR

(2) WCW World champion

7—GOLDUST

(7) WWF Intercontinental champion

8—THE GIANT

(8) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

9—HULK HOGAN

(6) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

10—MABEL

(-) USWA Southern champion

11—RAVEN

(10) ECW heavyweight champion

12—LEX LUGER

(14) WCW TV champion

13—RANDY SAVAGE

(4) No. 6 contender: WCW World title

14—JERRY LAWLER

(-) USWA heavyweight champion

15—BIG VAN VADER

(-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

WCW

1—RIC FLAIR

(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN

2—KONNAN

(2) 237, Mexico City, Mexico

3—STING

(6) 260, Venice Beach, CA

4—HULK HOGAN

(4) 275, Venice Beach, CA

5—THE GIANT

(5) 430, parts unknown

6—LEX LUGER

(8) 265, Chicago, IL

7—RANDY SAVAGE

(3) 237, Sarasota, FL

8—DICK SLATER

(-) 235, Tampa, FL

9—EDDY GUERRERO

(-) 221, Los Angeles, CA

10—BOOTY MAN

(-) 273, San Francisco, CA

11—ARN ANDERSON

(9) 249, Minneapolis, MN

12—ALEX WRIGHT

(11) 222, Berlin, Germany

13—CHRIS BENOIT

(14) 218, Edmonton, Alberta

14—DEVON STORM

(-) 232, Pacific Palisades, CA

15—HACKSAW DUGGAN

(-) 280, Glens Falls, NY

WWF

1—SHAWN MICHAELS

(3) 234, San Antonio, TX

2—GOLDUST

(2) 254, Austin, TX

3—BRET HART

(1) 235, Calgary, Alberta

4—THE UNDERTAKER

(4) 328, parts unknown

5—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(-) 273, Scottsdale, AZ

6—BIG VAN VADER

(-) 450, Denver, CO

7—STEVE AUSTIN

(7) 241, Dallas, TX

8—DIESEL

(-) 356, Las Vegas, NV

9—RODDY PIPER

(14) 247, Glasgow, Scotland

10—YOKOZUNA

(6) 589, Samoa

11—AHMED JOHNSON

(5) 255, Pearl River, MS

12—SAVIO VEGA

(12) 260, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico

13—OWEN HART

(9) 227, Calgary, Alberta

14—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(-) 279, Greenwich, CT

15—JUSTIN BRADSHAW

(-) 309, Roscoe, TX

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6—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

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7—YOKOZUNA

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4—KEVIN SULLIVAN

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5—DIESEL

Last issue: unrated

6—THE KID

Last issue: No. 13 Most Hated

7—BRIAN PILLMAN

Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

8—ARN ANDERSON

Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

9—MABEL

Last issue: unrated

10—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

11—LEX LUGER

Last issue: No. 12 Most Hated

12—OWEN HART

Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

13—MANKIND

Last issue: unrated

14—RAVEN

Last issue: unrated

15—STEVE AUSTIN

Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

TAG TEAMS

1—SKIP & ZIP

(2) WWF World tag team champions

2—LEX LUGER & STING

(1) WCW World tag team champions

3—HENRY & PHINEAS GODWINN

(4) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

4—THE ROAD WARRIORS

(3) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

5—THE CYBERPUNKS

(-) USWA tag team champions

6—RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

7—HARLEM HEAT

(5) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

8—THE NASTY BOYS

(7) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title

9—THE ELIMINATORS

(8) ECW tag team champions

10—MARCUS BAGWELL & SCOTTY RIGGS

(13) No. 5 contenders: WCW World tag title

11—OWEN HART & DAVEY BOY SMITH

(9) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

12—PUBLIC ENEMY

(10) No. 6 contenders: WCW World tag title

13—DOUG GILBERT & TOMMY RICH

(12) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

14—THE PIT BULLS

(11) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

15—MEN ON A MISSION

(-) No. 2 contenders: USWA tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended April 1, 1996

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUN AKIYAMA & TAKAO OMORI
(January 29, 1995; from Bobby Fulton & Tommy Rogers; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSU HARU MISAWA
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: YOSHINARI OGAWA
(September 3, 1995; from Dan Kroffat; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSU HARU MISAWA
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION: YUMIKO HOTTA
(September 24, 1995; from Toshiyo Yamada; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: DYNAMITE KANSAI
(August 30, 1995; from Aja Kong; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
AKIRA HOKUTO & MIMA SHIMODA
(September 24, 1995; from Kyoko Inoue & Takako Inoue; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE BLACK ASSASSIN
(October 21, 1995; from Billy Orderly; Fountain City, TN)

ALL-STATE WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FELIX & LAWRENCE HUTTON
(March 7, 1996; from Tony Prichard & Lone Star; Alcoa, TN)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: T. RANTULA
(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
JOHNNY GRAHAM
(October 14, 1995; from Lord Zoltan; Lewistown, PA)

ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAVEN
(January 27, 1996; from The Sandman; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ELIMINATORS
(February 3, 1996; from Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck; Rego Park, NY)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: 2 COLD SCORPIO
(January 5, 1996; from Mikey Whipwreck; Philadelphia, PA)

ICW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MARC ASH
(February 2, 1995; from Mike Majors; Plymouth, NC)

IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(January 4, 1996; from The Great Muta; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER
(January 4, 1996; from Koji Kanemoto; Tokyo, Japan)

MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(Last held by Al Snow)

MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LOS RUDDS
(September 9, 1995; from Otis Apollo & Scott D'Amore; Taylor, MI)

NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN SEVERN
(February 24, 1995; from Chris Candido; Erlanger, KY)

NWA NORTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOMMY CAIRO
(July 15, 1995; beat Devon Storm in tournament final; Williamstown, NJ)

NORTH AMERICAN ALL-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
THE COLORADO KID
(April 10, 1995; from Cactus Jack; Jonesboro, AR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: MITSU HARU MISAWA
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
TOSHI AKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE
(February 20, 1996; from Gary Albright & Stan Hansen; Morioka, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: GEORGE SOUTH
(March 30, 1996; beat Italian Stallion in tournament final; Greer, SC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(Most recently held by The Equalizer & George South)

TRI-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CAMERON LONE WOLF
(November 3, 1995; from Jimmy Sharpe; Rossville, GA)

TRI-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KEITH HART & CHRIS STEELHEART
(January 6, 1995; from Roger Sartain & Jimmy Sharpe; Rossville, GA)

USWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER
(March 4, 1996; beat Mabel in tournament final; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: MABEL
(March 16, 1996; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE CYBERPUNKS
(March 25, 1996; from Doug Gilbert & Tommy Rich; Memphis, TN)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: LEX LUGER
(March 6, 1996; from Johnny B. Badd; Macon, GA)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: KONNAN
(January 29, 1996; from One Man Gang; Canton, OH)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR
(February 11, 1996; from Randy Savage; St. Petersburg, FL)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LEX LUGER & STING
(January 22, 1996; from Harlem Heat; Las Vegas, NV)

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM McPHERSON
(October 7, 1995; from Chris Evans; Clementon, NJ)

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BAD ATTITUDE
(June 3, 1995; from Doomsday Express; Clementon, NJ)

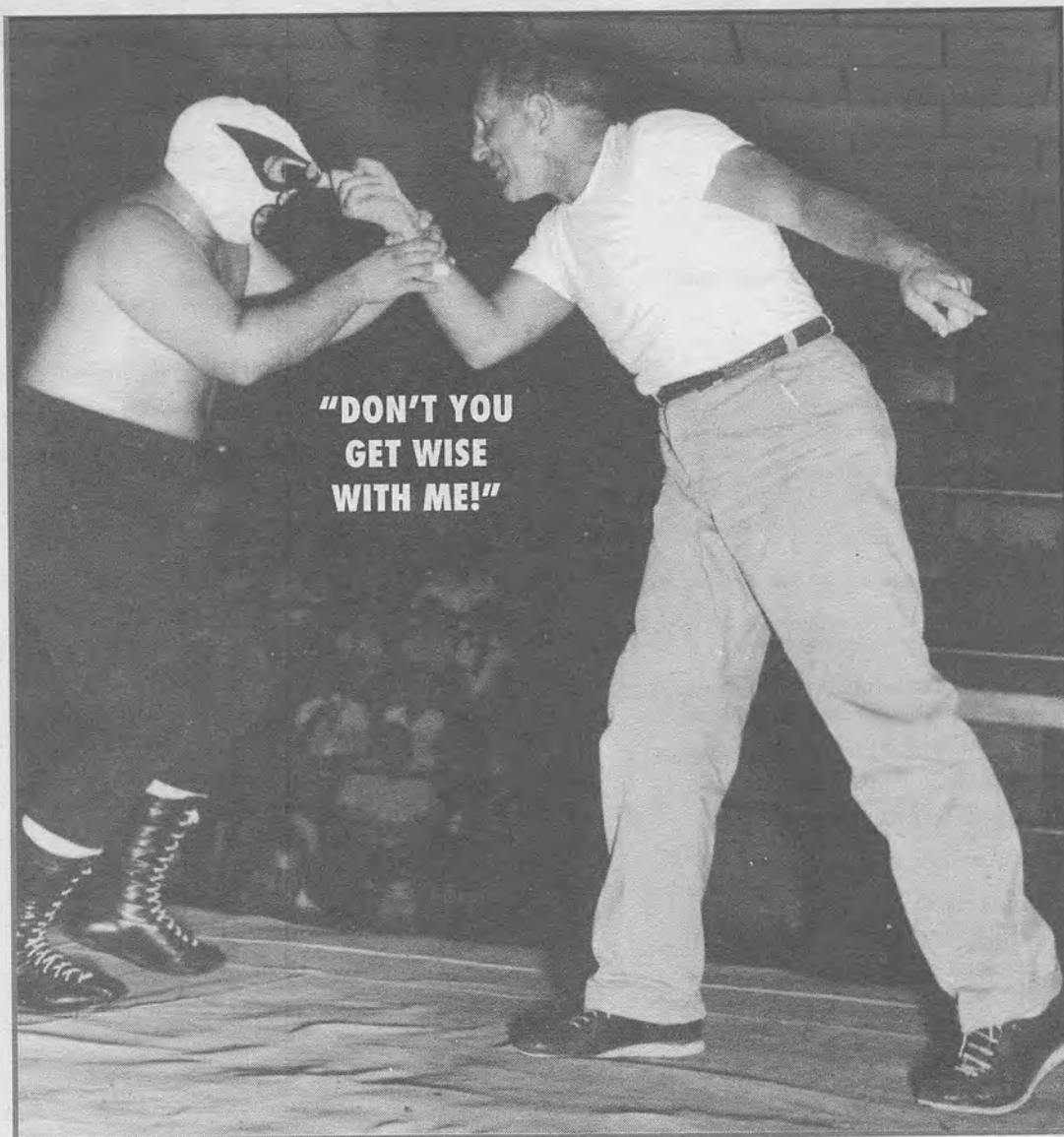
WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: GOLDUST
(January 21, 1996; from Razor Ramon; Fresno, CA)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: SHAWN MICHAELS
(March 31, 1996; from Bret Hart; Anaheim, CA)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SKIP AND ZIP
(March 31, 1996; beat Henry & Phineas Godwinn in tournament final; Anaheim, CA)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History



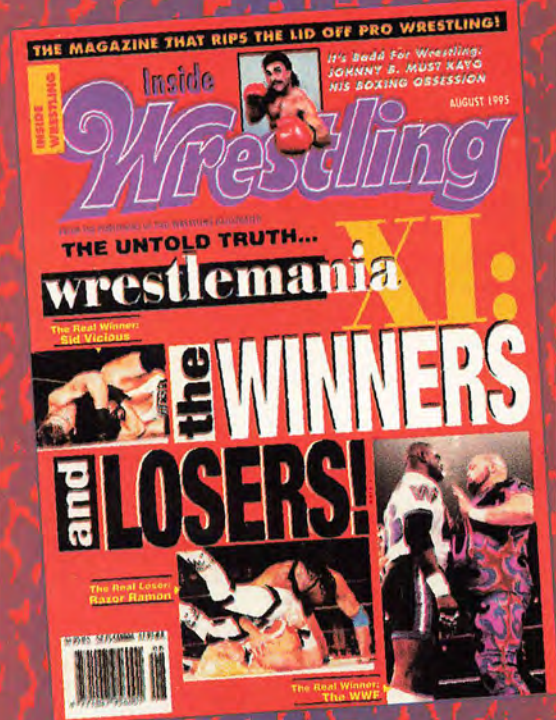
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